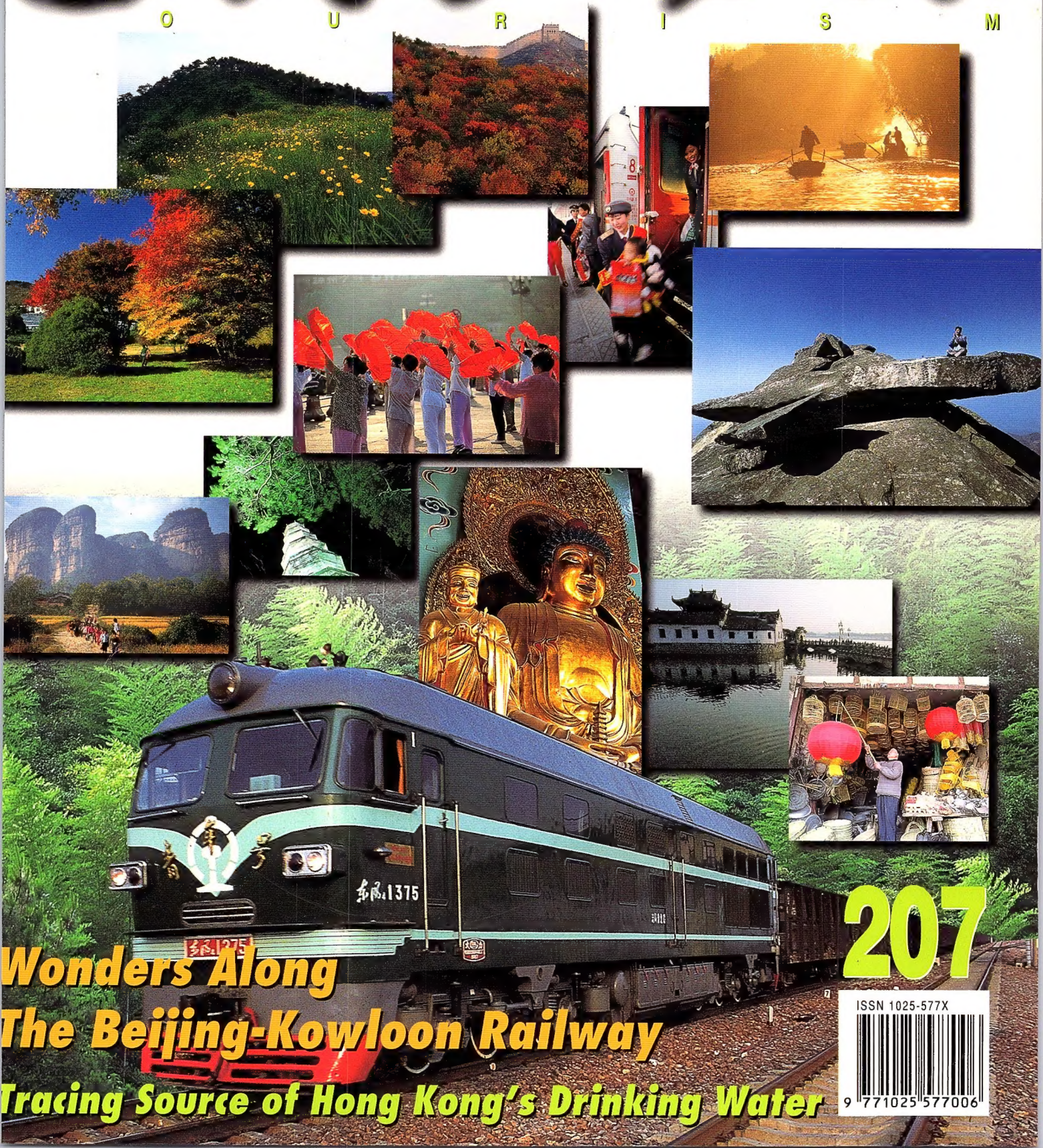


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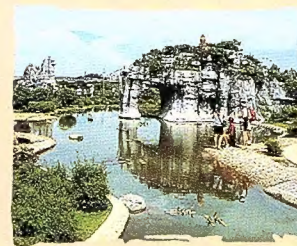
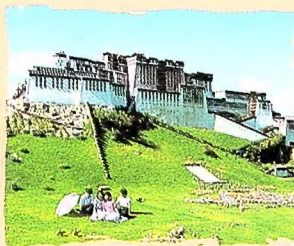
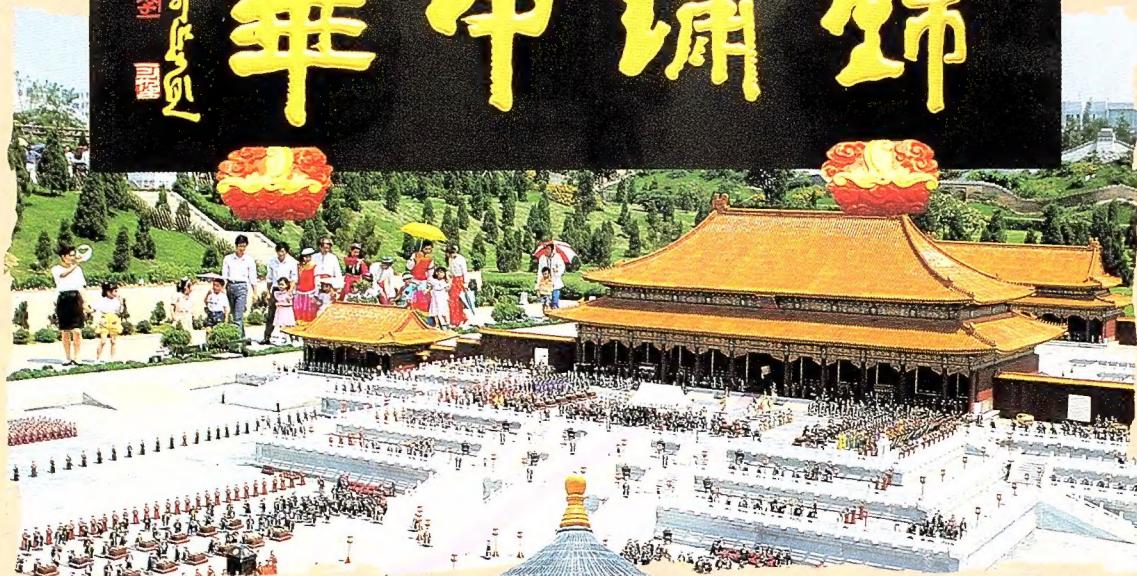
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Photo by Chan Yat Nin

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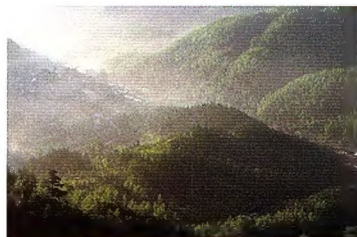
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Touring Along the Beijing-Kowloon Railway

Photos by Shi Baoxiu, Shan Xiaogang Article by Shi Baoxiu

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The newly built 2,400-kilometre Beijing-Kowloon Railway provides a short-cut link between Hong Kong and the Chinese capital, Beijing. Following this line, one can visit many scenic spots and historical sites which have seldom been seen by outsiders. The experience of travelling by train is also quite exhilarating.



The Romance of Travelling by Train

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The Hanis in Yunnan

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Article by Iris Wong

With a population of about one million, this ethnic group inhabits mainly the hilly regions in southern Yunnan. Under the collective name of Hani, they are actually divided into many branches. The hardworking Hanis have developed beautiful terraced fields on the mountain slopes. They are also good at singing and dancing.

LEISURE

Tasting Melons Along the Silk Road

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Photos by Xie Guanghui Article by He Xiaozu, Zhi Lang

Anxi is a small town in Gansu Province that used to be an important stop along the ancient Silk Road. Today, the various melons it produces have become so famous that the town has been given an apt nickname, Guazhou, or Melon Town.

DISCOVERIES

The China River on Which Hong Kong Depends

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Photos & Article by Huang Yanhong

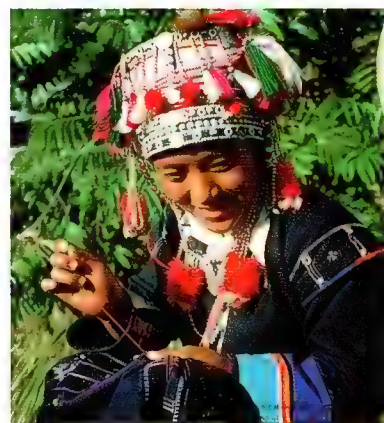
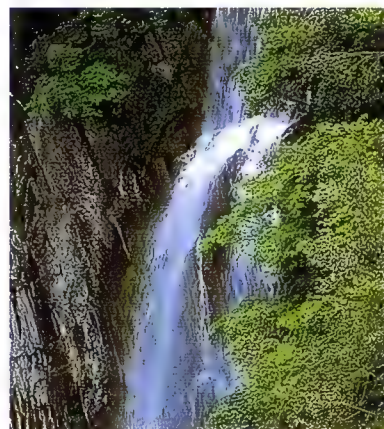
From Sanbai Mountain in Jiangxi Province, the water of Dongjiang River flows for thousands of miles before filling Plover Cove Reservoir in Hong Kong. This is how the drinking water for the region's six million people has been provided. Behind the pipe lines, there are many stories.

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Cover: Scenes along the
Beijing-Kowloon Railway





PHOTOGRAPHY

This shot was taken just after the end of a boat race. The oarsmen, now relaxed after the stress of the competition, playfully splash water at each other in celebration.

By using a zoom lens, the photographer has condensed the many joyful elements of the scene, and has omitted any feature which is unnecessary. The splashing water has helped to enhance the sense of mobility, and the action of it has lent the racers' expressions more jubilation than they would have.

To shoot a picture like this, first of all, you must find the right vantage point; secondly, you should choose the appropriate zoom lens. To shoot the race itself, most photographers use 200 mm, 300 mm or 400 mm zoom lenses. But for a scene like this, a medium zoom with a wide angle (20-80 mm) lens would be a good choice.

It should be noted that because of the reflection of the splashing water, your camera's light meter reading may be misleading. It would be advisable here to raise the aperture by one stop here. For focusing, it would be better to do this manually rather than relying on auto focus so as to avoid a focus on the water instead of the people.

Estimated data :

Camera: Canon 135 EOS-5, EF70-

200 mm / 2.8 L USM zoom;

Shutter speed: 1/125 second;

Aperture: 6.3;

Film: Fujichrome RVP (ISO 50).



By Chan Yat Nin

Splashing Out



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FROM THE EDITOR

THE LINKS

When China first opened to foreign tourists in the early 1980s, many youths from Hong Kong went to visit their motherland with great enthusiasm. For the first time they saw the Great Wall, the Yellow River and the Yangtse River with their own eyes and this gave them a strong sense of their links with this vast land. At that time, the Beijing-Guangzhou Railway was the artery that these travellers relied on.

Time has changed. Today, those young people have become middle aged. Owing to the increasingly opening up of China, the motherland is no longer mysterious and many of the scenic spots have become familiar to them. However, their interest in searching for the links between China and themselves has never ceased. Instead, it has been intensified with the passing years.

The founding of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has laid a solid foundation for further exchanges between Hong Kong and the mainland of China. At this historic moment, the operation of the Beijing-Kowloon Railway is especially significant. This new artery links Hong Kong to Beijing directly and also takes people to the hinterland that few outsiders have ever visited. Travelling along this line, Hong Kong travellers will see many new places and again find a feeling of freshness. This experience will be very much like that in the 1980s, only that this time, it will be the re-discovery of an old friend.

Another story reflecting the links between Hong Kong and its motherland in this issue is about water. Dongjiang, a river originating in Jiangxi and joining the Pearl River in Guangdong, provides Hong Kong's six million people with drinking water. What could be better than this railway artery and the water channel to illustrate the vital links between Hong Kong and the mainland of China?

Photo by Chan Yat-Nin

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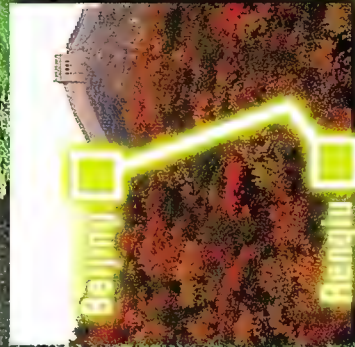
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Touring Along the Beijing - Kowloon Railway

HIGHLIGHTS

Photos & Article by Shi Baoxiu



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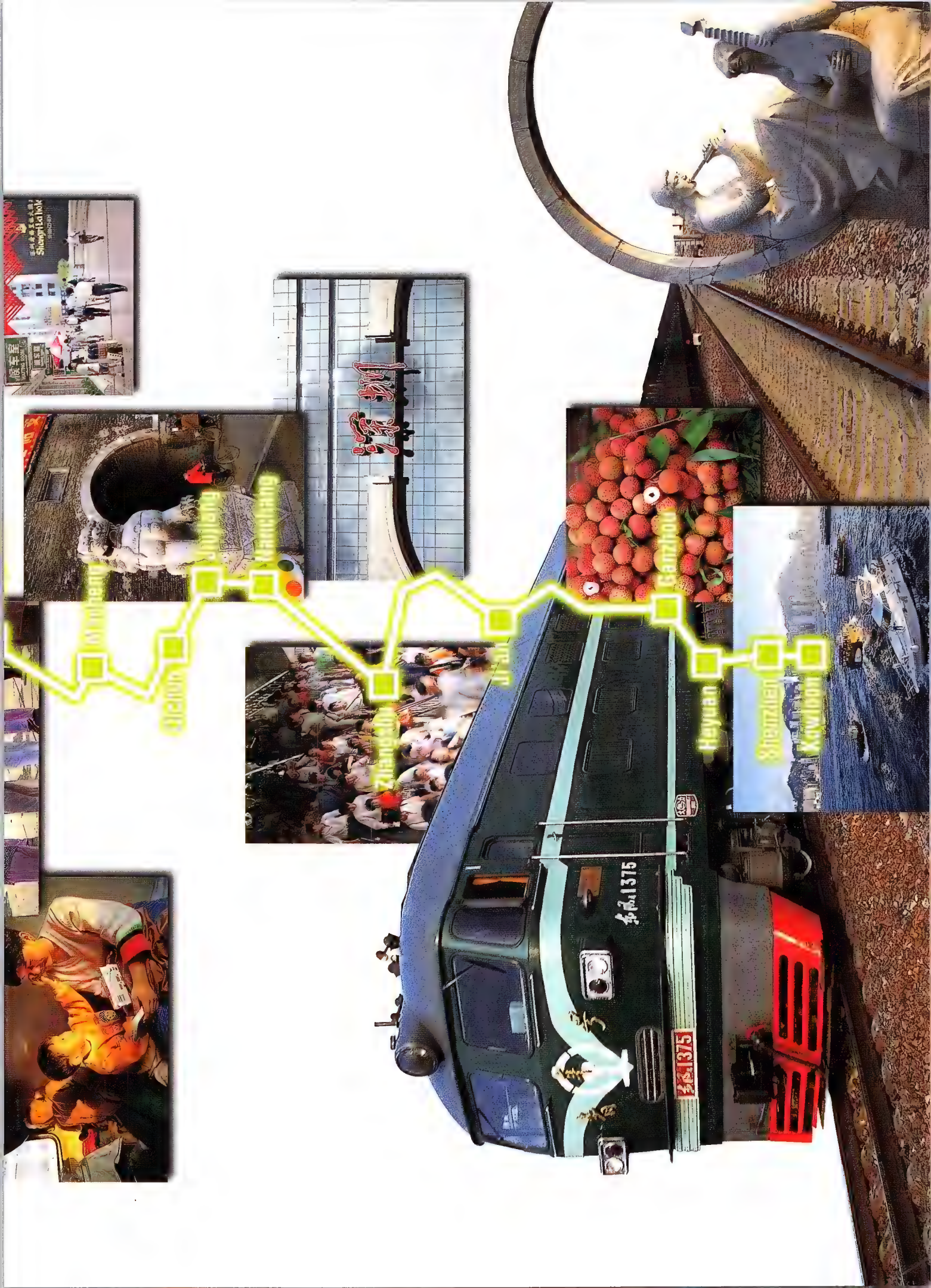
Moze

Shangju

Bozhong

Beifan







The Romance of

Ten years ago, travelling by train in China was hard going. For one thing, it was difficult even to buy tickets, especially those for sleeper trains. Secondly, the carriages did not have air-conditioning, and it could be extremely hot on board. The trains also travelled very slowly, and even the fastest barely managed an average speed of 80 kilometres per hour. However, nowadays things have improved considerably. It is no longer difficult to get hold of tickets, and there are now air-conditioned trains.

Some of these run on the recently opened Beijing-Kowloon railway. Although this new track is a staggering 2,400 kilometres long, it is in fact the shortest existing route from Hong Kong to Beijing. Currently passengers still have to change trains in Shenzhen, as part of the track is still under test, but it is estimated that by the end of this year people will be able to go directly from Kowloon station in Hong Kong to any place along this railway. The new railway track cuts through totally new land, past places that have scarcely seen outsiders before. It passes several places of outstanding scenery and others of historical interest. Even if you only have a few days to spare, you would still have time to cover this route, which gives you easy access to unspoilt countryside and historical towns. If you have a little more time, you can choose to make a few excursions along the route.

There is a lasting appeal to travelling by train. Whether it is the gentle rhythm of the wheels on the track, the slowly evolving scenery or the chance to think or speak at leisure, it is hard to tell. A wonderful sense of calm can come over you while travelling by train. One's mind becomes unusually clear, and everything is seen in a new light. Issues that were previously fraught with difficulty can suddenly seem to have a solution, and it is almost as if you can make a clean breast of things. Of course, if that all seems rather too deep to contemplate, one can just as easily take the opportunity to play a few games of cards or read a book. When you feel tired, you can rest on the couchette whenever you like. When you want a walk, you stroll along the corridor. Food is always nearby, and three meals are served in the restaurant car every day. Ocean liners may be comfortable and spacious, but they can often be plagued by storms. Aeroplanes are fast, but they can give one the feeling of being caged in. It is only on trains that you can be free of all this turbulence and can allow yourself some space.

The wonderful thing about trains is that they stop frequently. If there is a place of historical significance or of natural beauty



Travelling by Train

nearby, you can simply get off the train to go and see it. Afterwards it is easy to board another train on the same route to continue your journey onwards.

Taking a trip along the Beijing-Kowloon Railway is a great way to experience the romance of travelling by train. The brand new track, the new carriages and wonderful scenery will make you feel marvellous. What's more, it does not cost much. Maybe the experience will be so unforgettable that you may always prefer to take a train in the future each time you travel. One trip along the Beijing-Kowloon Railway and you will know. This article shows you some of the interesting stopovers on route.

Express Trains on the Beijing-Kowloon Railway

◆ Air-conditioned special express trains Nos. 105 and 106 run between Shenzhen and Beijing (West Station), with both seated and sleeper carriages.

Nos. 67 and 68 run between Nanchang and Beijing (West Station).

◆ Express trains Nos. 537 and 538 run between Shenzhen and Jiujiang.

Nos. 427 and 428 run between Hefei and Beijing (West Station).

Timetable of Train No. 105/106

06:26 Beijing (West Station)	21:35	13:11 Huangzhou	14:37
04:34 Renqiu	03:34	10:57 Jiujiang	16:44
03:34 Suning	00:16	08:53 Nanchang	18:45
02:17 Hengshui	01:31	07:18 Zhangshu (East Station)	20:27
01:06 Qinghe City	02:44	05:32 Ji'an	22:11
23:49 Liaocheng	03:51	04:54 Jinggangshan	22:50
22:51 Liangshan	04:85	02:30 Ganzhou	01:01
21:48 Heze	05:58	00:26 Dingnan	03:23
20:34 Shangqiu (North Station)	07:13	22:54 Longchuan	04:55
20:21 Shangqiu (South Station)	07:33	21:50 Heyuan	06:10
19:25 Bozhou	08:29	20:38 Huizhou (North Station)	07:16
17:42 Fuyang	10:06	20:22 Huizhou	07:36
15:59 Hengchuan	11:55	19:36 Changping (East Station)	08:20
14:09 Macheng	13:38	19:15 Zhangmutou	08:43
		18:30 Shenzhen	09:30



Huizhou - History

HUIZHOU After leaving Shenzhen, the train takes just under two hours to reach

Huizhou. The surging water of the Dongjiang River and the Xizhi River converge at this city. The two rivers, together with a lake which lies on the edge of the town, make the place look rather charming.

The city was first conceived and built more than 1,000 years ago, under the direction of a famous Song-dynasty literary master.

The lake, known as the West Lake, is not as large as its counterpart in Hangzhou, but is just as picturesque, with stone bridges, ancient pagodas and waterside pavilions.

TRAVELLER'S TIPS

◆ **Travel Route:** Take the special express train no.106 from Shenzhen, arriving in Huizhou at 8:30 p.m. The city can be visited in a day, so that in the evening you could return to the station to take the same express train (No.106) to continue further north.

◆ **Local food:** Dongjiang salted chicken and Dongjiang stuffed beancurd.

◆ **Accommodation:** There are several two-star and three-star hotels. The best one is the Huizhou Hotel, which is surrounded by water on three sides. For a standard room, the cost is around 400 yuan per day.

◆ **Local specialities:** Huizhou dried vegetables, lychees, and baicao herb oil.



1. The walkway over West Lake (by Huang Jianmin)

2. Huizhou people relaxing in the evening (by Shi Baoxiu)



HEYUAN

It takes only an hour and a half from Huizhou to Heyuan. Here there is a huge reservoir, called Xinfengjiang, or more romantically, Wanlū Lake, which supplies 85 per cent of Hong Kong's drinking water. The word *lū* means "green", which aptly describes the surroundings – the hill slopes around the lake are covered with thick green grass and pine trees, as are the islands on the lake. The water also appears as limpid green, as it is extremely clean.

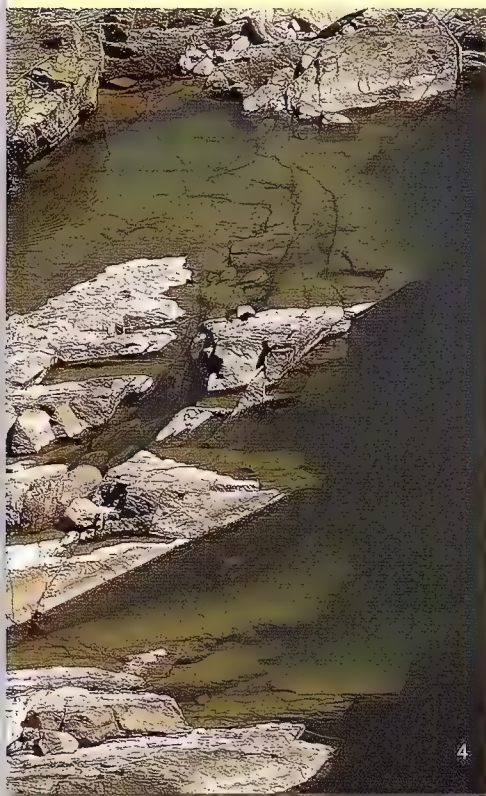
At the jetty next to the lake, there are various kinds of boats for hire.

Wanlū Lake has at least 100 islets. Many of the bigger ones can be reached by boat. On one of them it is even possible to stay for the night. Now that would be a wonderful experience.



TRAVELLER'S TIPS

◆ **Travel Route:** Arrive at and stay in Heyuan the same night. The next morning take a special-route minibus or taxi to the lakeside (the jetty is at a place called Xingang) for a trip around Wanlū Lake. Return to the city in the afternoon and take the special express train No.106 to go further north. ◆ **Local food:** Traditional Hakka cuisine and snacks. ◆ **Accommodation:** There are several two-star hotels in Heyuan. To stay a night on one of the islands it costs no more than 100 yuan. ◆ **Local specialities:** Chinese chestnuts, honey sweets, and kiwi fruit.



3. Disembarking from the touring boat on Wangluhu Lake (by Shi Baoxiu)
4. Part of Xinfeng Reservoir (by Shi Baoxiu)

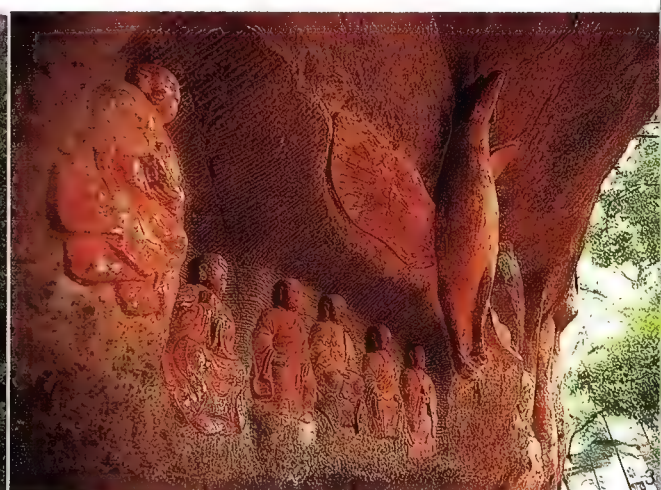
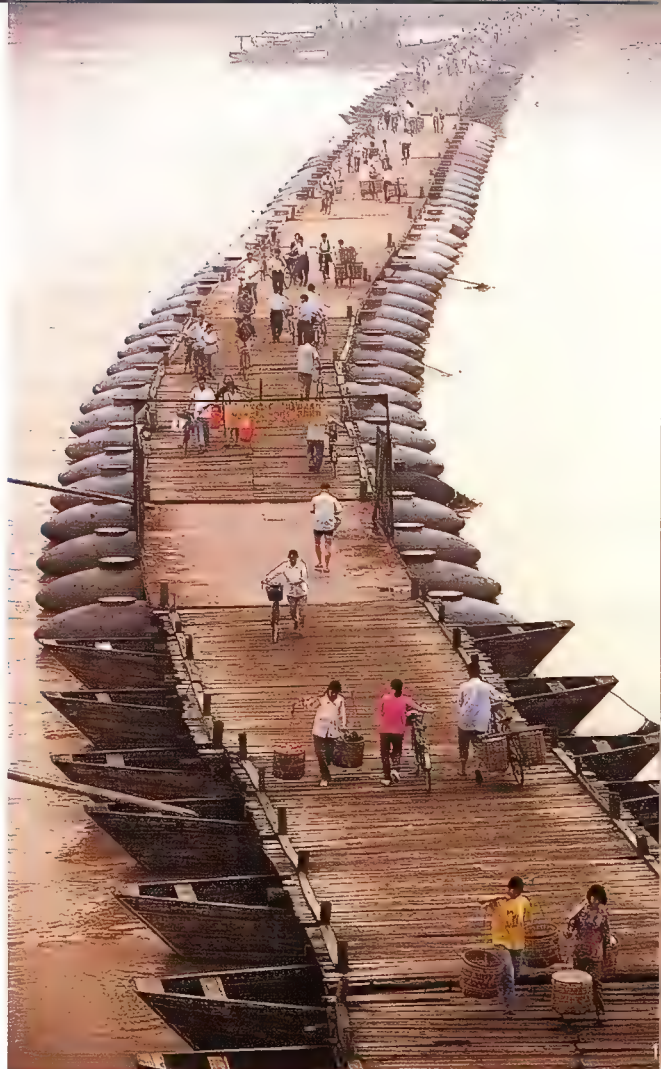
Ganzhou

GANZHOU

After leaving Huizhou, special express train No.106 soon enters the Nanling Mountains area in southern Jiangxi. The train arrives at 2:00 a.m. in Ganzhou, a famous historical city.

In the northern part of the town, a large section of the ancient city wall has been preserved. It is possible to take a walk along the top of it, and follow its meandering route along the river bank, or climb up to the top of the Bajing Tower. From here there is a good view of the confluence of the Zhangjiang and Gongjiang rivers. A short walk west of Bajing Tower is Yugu Terrace, which is also an ancient fortification. Though not as high as the Bajing Tower, it is situated on higher ground. Climbing to the top, the visitor can have a panoramic view of Ganzhou, where the tiled roofs of old buildings can be seen huddled between the recently built skyscrapers. Compared with the newly built high-rise buildings, the two ancient towers, which once served as the landmarks of the city, look tiny in comparison.

To the east of Bajing Tower is a section of city wall that has been well preserved. Inside the city walls are mostly old houses, with white-washed walls and black tiles. Along the river outside the old city boundary are long rows of river boats. Many families live on these permanently, and in the mornings they can be seen washing and having their breakfast aboard. Further away is the Dongjiang Pontoon Bridge. People on their way to work, children going to school and farmers coming to the city to hawk their farm produce, hurry over the ancient bridge like ants before rain. Inside the city, there are many ancient streets and lanes lined with all sorts of shops. Almost all the buildings along these streets and lanes were built during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) or the early days of the Republic of China; their high walls now are all covered in black moss.





Across the Zhangjiang Bridge and 12 kilometres to the north is an even older site – the Tongtian Cliff. The cliff itself is nothing extraordinary. What makes it unique is the carvings on it, most of which are rare examples from the Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1127) dynasties. There are not only images of the Buddha and the buddhisattvas, but also autographs made by famous people, dating as far back as the Song Dynasty. It is said that the Tongtian Cliff is the largest example of cliff carving south of the Yangtse.

TRAVELLER'S TIPS

◆ **Travel Route:** One day is enough to visit the old the part of the city, the ancient towers, temples and streets. In Ganzhou there are many motor or pedal rickshaws, and the average cost for a trip in the city is 3-5 yuan.

◆ **Local food:** Stir-fried small fish, beggar's chicken, fried duck, seven-layered cake, ox tongue, and dates.

◆ **Accommodation:** In the city itself there are several two-star and three-star hotels. The cost for a standard room ranges between 200 and 300 yuan per night.

◆ **Shopping:** Fruit sweets, straw mats and grapefruit.

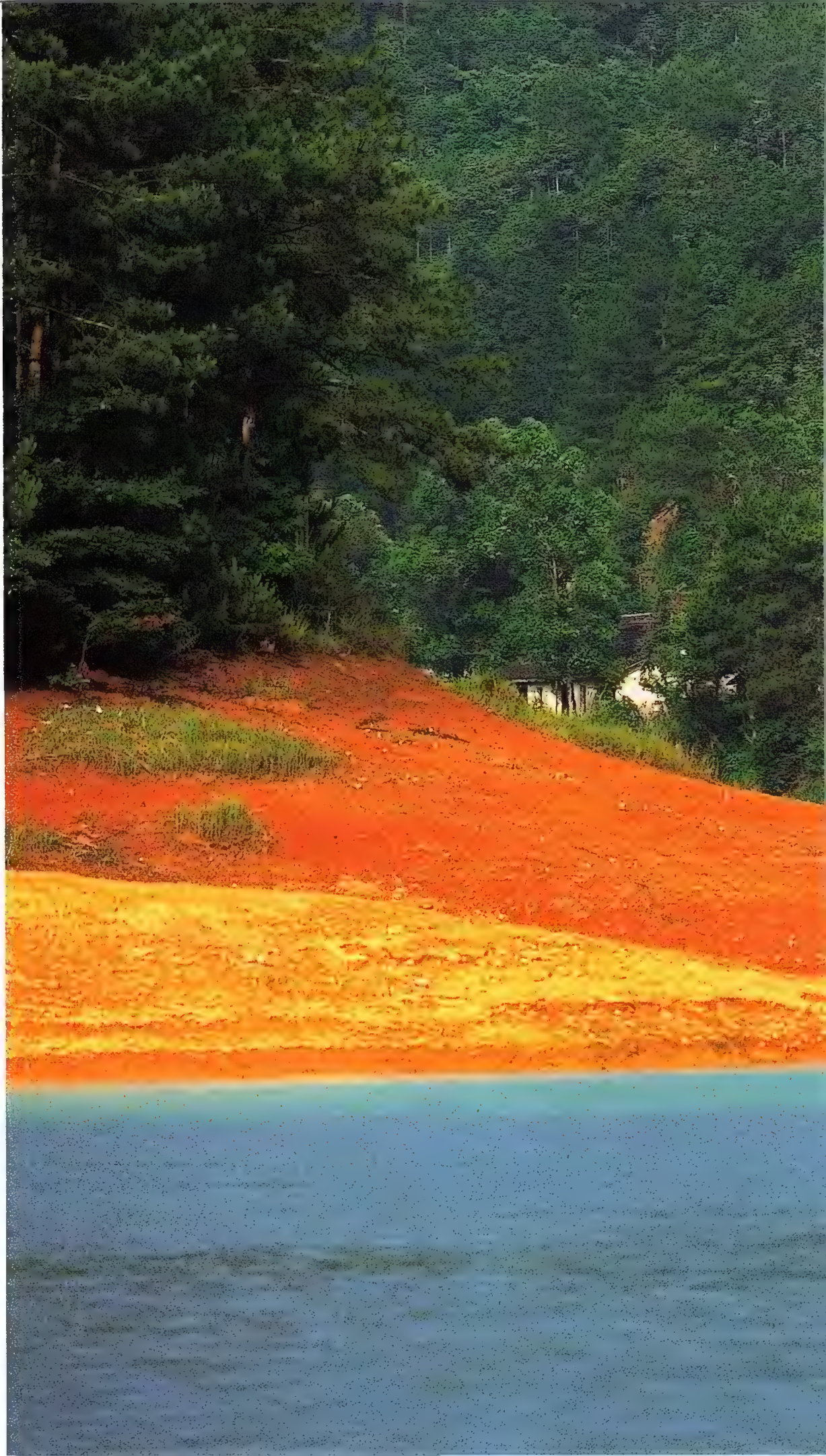
1. This ancient floating bridge is still in use today. (by Shi Baoxiu)
2. The ancient Ganzhou city wall built along the winding river (by Shi Baoxiu)
3. Buddhist stone sculptures from the Tang and Song dynasties are preserved on Tongtian Cliff. (by Shi Baoxiu)
4. Floating logs on Doushui Lake

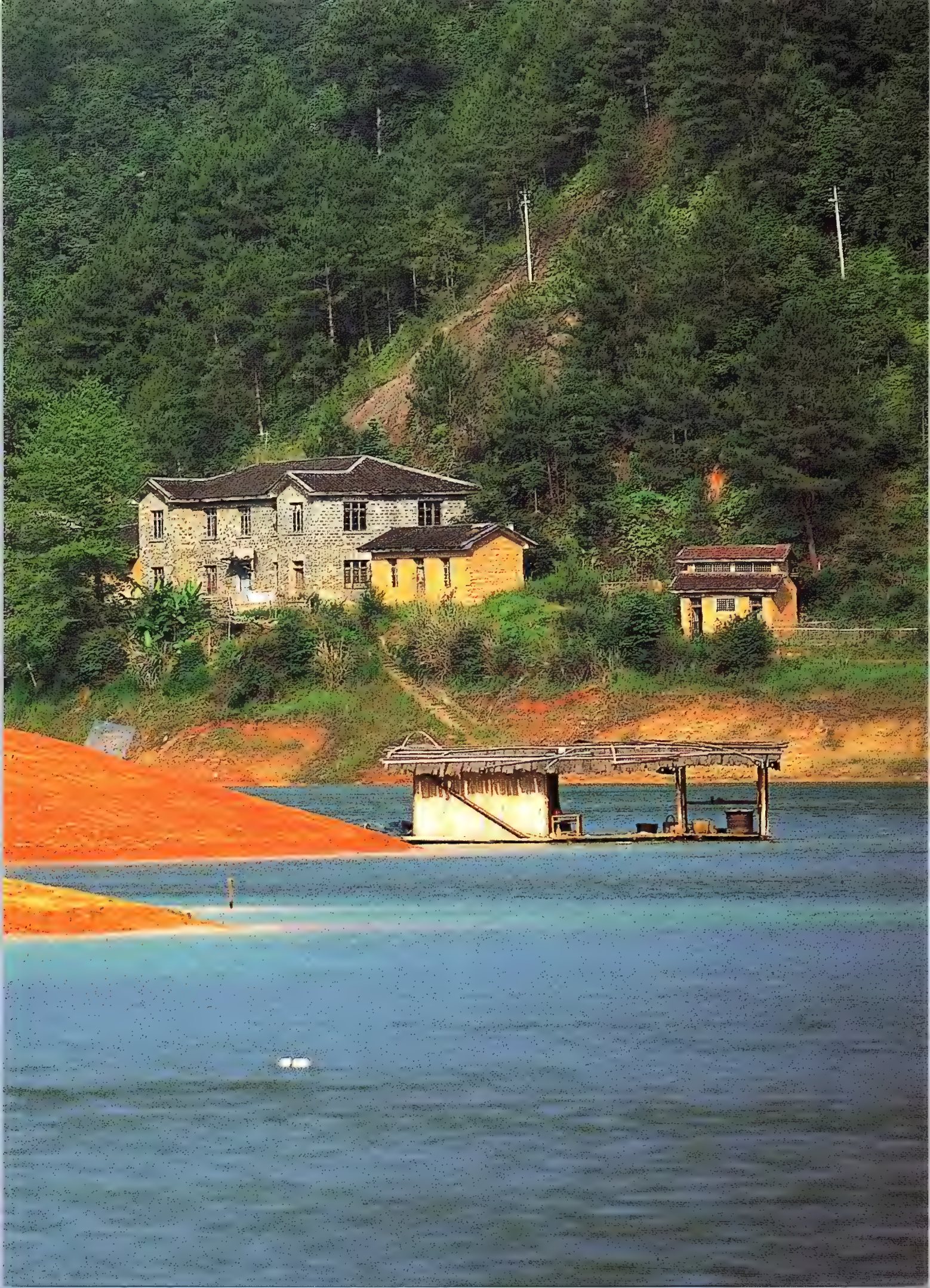




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Doushui Lake • Bailu Isle

DOUSHUI LAKE AND WUZHI MOUNTAIN

After entering Jiangxi,

you have two beautiful places to visit: Wuzhi (Five Fingers) Mountain and Doushui Lake. Both are near the town of Ganzhou, in southern Jiangxi. Doushui Lake is in fact a reservoir, surrounded by mountains which are covered in virgin forest. A 20-kilometre path goes the length of the reservoir and leads to an ancient village set deep in the mountains.

Wuzhi Mountain is on the west side of Doushui Lake. Often shrouded in fog and mist, the mountain's five main peaks are said to look like Buddha's hand supporting the sky. Also on this mountain is a granite stone forest, with old dwarf pines growing between the rocks. The drifting mists give the place an atmosphere of mystery and intrigue.



TRAVELLER'S TIPS Leave the train at Ganzhou. A trip to Five Fingers Mountain and Doushui Lake takes a full day, provided that you get up early and have a car at your disposal. To see just the lake, you can go to Shangyou by bus and then take a minibus from there to Doushui Town. From here, you can hire a boat for a cruise on the lake. From Ganzhou, there is actually a train service every other day to Doushui Lake. It is said to have the narrowest track gauge in the world, with a width of about 80 centimetres.



BAILU (EGRET) ISLE

The northbound train No.106 arrives in Ji'an at 8:30 in the morning. Historically, the city was an important administrative centre. The surrounding area was used as a base for the Red Army some 60-70 years ago. Today, the former residence of Chairman Mao, the Soviet government offices and the bank still stand.

The Ganjiang River meanders through Ji'an. In the middle of the river is a narrow island, about one kilometre long, called Bailuzhou (Egret Isle). One end of it is covered by a dense copse, while the other end has tall grass that reaches the height of a grown adult. Hidden in the wood at the end of the island are houses with yellow glazed tiles. This place used to be a famous college in the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) and continued to be so until the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). After that it became a secondary school, and today it still produces many graduates who go on to become honours students in top universities.

Qingyuan Hill, some eight kilometres from the city proper, has been consecrated as sacred land by Buddhists. Apart from the Jingju Temple and the pagodas built in the Song and Yuan dynasties, also found here are stone carvings with inscriptions left by famous ancient scholars.

TRAVELLER'S TIPS

Egret Isle can be reached by bus. The Wind & Moon Tower and Cloud Pavilion, in the grounds of Egret Isle Secondary School, are open to the public. To get to Qingyuan Hill you can take a minibus. ♦ **Local food:** beef with bean noodles, crispy cakes and "three-cup chicken". ♦ **Accommodation:** there are several two-star hotels in the city. At Ji'an Hotel, a deluxe suite is no more than 300 yuan per day. ♦ **Local specialities:** Weiyuan soy sauce, camphor-wood chests and ceramics.

Previous page:

1. Even "the little finger" of Wuzhi (Five fingers) Mountain is far from small. (by Zhou Chuanrong)
2. The renowned Buddhist Jile Temple on Wuzhi Peak (by Zhou Chuanrong)
3. The tall grass growing on Egret Isle (by Shi Baoxiu)
4. The secondary school on Egret Isle (by Shi Baoxiu)
5. An ancient building inside Bailu Park (by Shi Baoxiu)

Next page: One of the many waterfalls in the Jinggang Mountains. (by Peng Zhengge)



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The Jinggang Mountains in Zhangshu

THE JINGGANG MOUNTAINS

You might want to consider making a stop at Ji'an. About 150 kilometres west of here are the Jinggang Mountains, which are covered with a thick forest of pine and bamboo. Deep within the groves are small rivers with waterfalls, where clear and sweet water is in abundance. Some of the waterfalls are as much as 100 metres high, producing a clouds of water vapour which are wonderfully refreshing for those that happen to be standing nearby. Even in summer, the mountain top is so cool after sunset that one needs a thick quilt for the night. Thus it is no wonder that this area has long been popular as a retreat from the summer heat in Jiangxi Province.

The nearest urban centre in this area is Jinggangshan City, situated in a highland basin some 800 metres above sea level. This was where the Red Army used to have its headquarters. Here there is a stretch of water known as Green Lake, which has an island in the middle containing several pavilions. It is a quiet and beautiful place.

ZHANGSHU

Two hundred kilometres further north on the Beijing-Kowloon Railway is Zhangshu. This city is known as southern China's "capital of herbal medicine". Originally a small town, it achieved its fame because of its superior methods and long history in concocting traditional medicines. At the end of September every year, a herbal medicine trade fair is held here. Medicine from all parts of China changes hands here, filling the whole city with the aroma of medicinal herbs.

The city is bordered in the west by the Ganjiang River. In the past, all medicines, whether inbound or outbound, were transported on the river. Today, the railways and roads have taken over the task, but the ancient customs pavilions on the quays still stand. Local residents still make themselves busy on the river carrying cargo and passengers. The preservation of the ancient streets and jetties have made the city very attractive.

Hezhao Hill, about 20 kilometres south-east of the city, is designated as sacred land by Taoists. It is a lovely place to visit, as it is graced with beautiful bamboo plants.

TRAVELLER'S TIPS

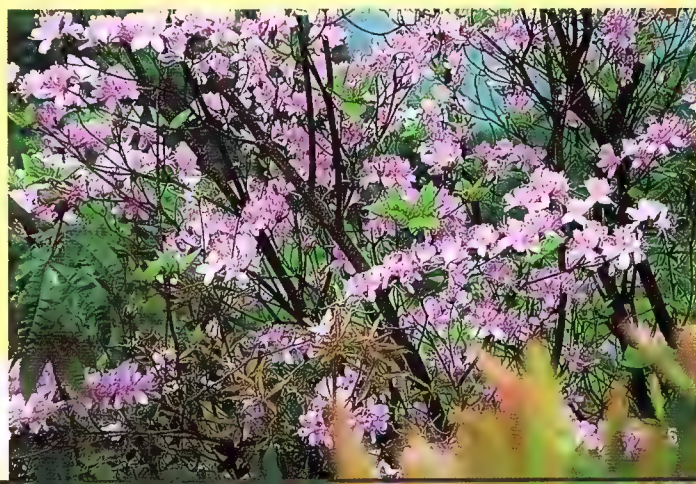
There are buses from Ji'an to the Jinggang Mountains. The city of Zhangshu is about 10 kilometres from Zhangshu Station on the Beijing-Kowloon Railway. Minibuses run between the city centre and the railway station.

◆ **Local food:** Black-bone chicken and "three cup chicken".

◆ **Accommodation:** There are both luxury and standard hotels in Jinggangshan and Zhangshu, mostly with very reasonable rates. The Jinggangshan Guesthouse charges only about 200 yuan a night for a standard room.

◆ **Local specialities:** medicine from the camphor tree, Jinggang Mountain bamboo shoots and tea.





1. Ginseng grown on Changbai Mountains on sale at the annual herbal medicine fair (by Shi Baoxiu)
2. Advertisements for the medicine trade fair held every September in Zhangshu (by Shi Baoxiu)
3. The former residences of Red Army marshals (by Peng Zhenge)
4. One of the statutes of the Red Army marshals on a knoll near Jinggangshan (by Peng Zhenge)
5. Every spring, azaleas are in bloom all over the Jinggang Mountains. (by Li Ziqing)

Nanchang Dragon and Tiger Mountain

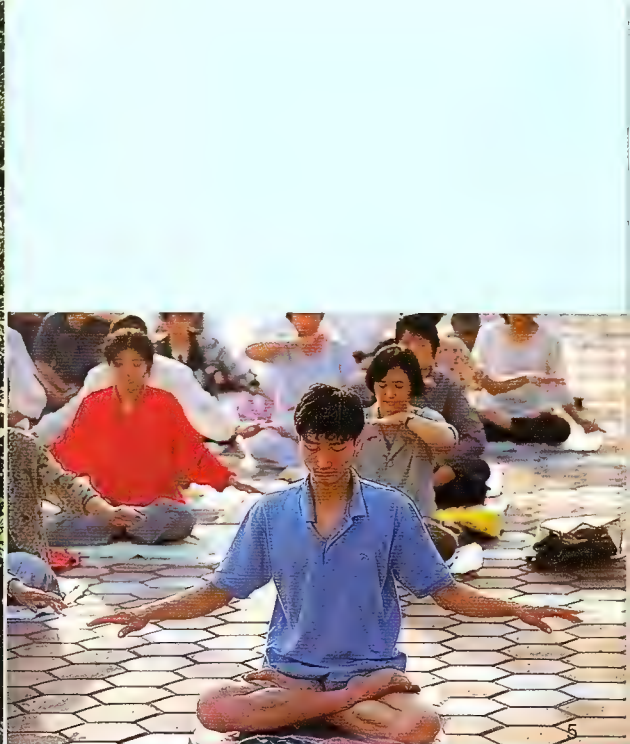
NANCHANG

The train No.106 stops at Nanchang at 9:00 a.m. The capital city of Jiangxi Province is the largest and only provincial capital on the Beijing-Kowloon Railway. It contains the ancient Tengwang Tower standing next to Ganjiang River. It is probably the highest and largest of its kind in China. A lift has been installed inside to take visitors to the top, and from there there is a good view of the river and its small islands, beautiful in the classical Chinese way. Downstream, in the distance, you will see a new Beijing-Kowloon Railway bridge, looking like a thin wire suspended over the river. Looking back towards the city, you will see a crowd of modern tower blocks, some higher than Tengwang Tower, but all looking alike. They have no way of comparing with the Tengwang Tower, which is so much more graceful and unique.

Like other cities in China, Nanchang has a square in the centre of it called "August 1 Square". This commemorates the founding date of the People's Liberation Army, which actually took place in this city. Although this is not a historical site as such, it is a nice place to observe in the mornings. At dawn, people are already on the square. Old men practise *Taiji* boxing, middle-aged women rehearse the traditional fan dance or coloured-rod dance, while others exercise in a more modern way and do aerobics.

Other places of interest are Baihuazhou Park, Qingshan Lake and the Tang-dynasty Shengjin Pagoda.





TRAVELLER'S TIPS One day is enough for visiting all the sites, and city buses go to all of them.

◆ **Local food:** Lotus-seeds with chicken blood, pork-ribs in turnip soup, and grapes with fermented soy beans.

◆ **Accommodation:** There are two-, three- and four-star hotels. The August 1 Hotel is close to the railway station and long-distance bus station, and its rates are reasonable, currently set at about 200 yuan per night. ◆ **Local specialities:** Pearls, Double-well Green Tea, lotus seeds.

DRAGON AND TIGER MOUNTAIN

About 120 kilometres east of Nanchang is Dragon and Tiger Hill, the birthplace of the Chinese Taoist religion. Because of its fame and the beautiful landscape surrounding it, this area has been designated as a state-protected site.

One way to view the area is to take a bamboo raft along Luxi River (also called Baita River), just north of the town of Shangqing. The river passes through a stretch called "Celestial Water Crag", where the hills on either side of the river are strangely shaped and the water is crystal clear. This is regarded as the best part of the Dragon and Tiger Hill scenic area.

In Shangqing Town, there is the Heavenly Teacher Mansion which was, according to legend, the residence of Zhang Daoling, forefather of the Zhengyi Sect of Taoism. The mansion in fact consists of a series of houses connected by courtyards. This sect, still alive today, is quite liberal, allowing its followers to marry. The title of "Heavenly Teacher" is inherited and there have been more than 60 generations up to now.

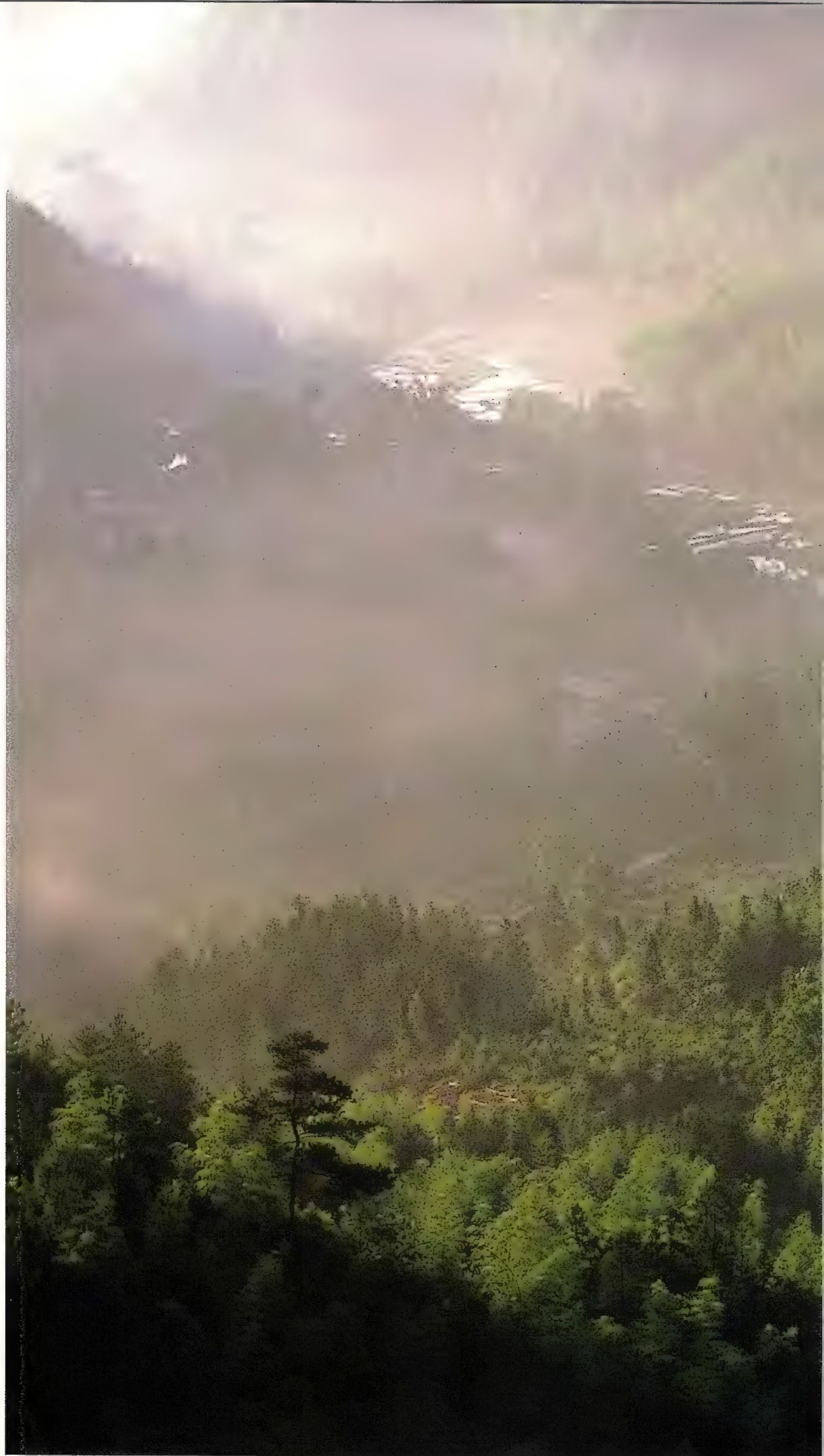
TRAVELLER'S TIPS How to get to Shangqing: Get off the train at Nanchang and take a local train or bus from there to Yingtan (the journey takes about two hours). Then catch a minibus to Shangqing Town. One day is enough to visit Dragon and Tiger Hill. ◆ **Local food:** Shangqing Beancurd, Braised Pork-ribs in Soy Sauce. ◆ **Accommodation:** Dragon and Tiger Hill Villa with a rate of 100 yuan per standard room per night. ◆ **Local specialities:** Dried bamboo shoots, wild mountain vegetables.

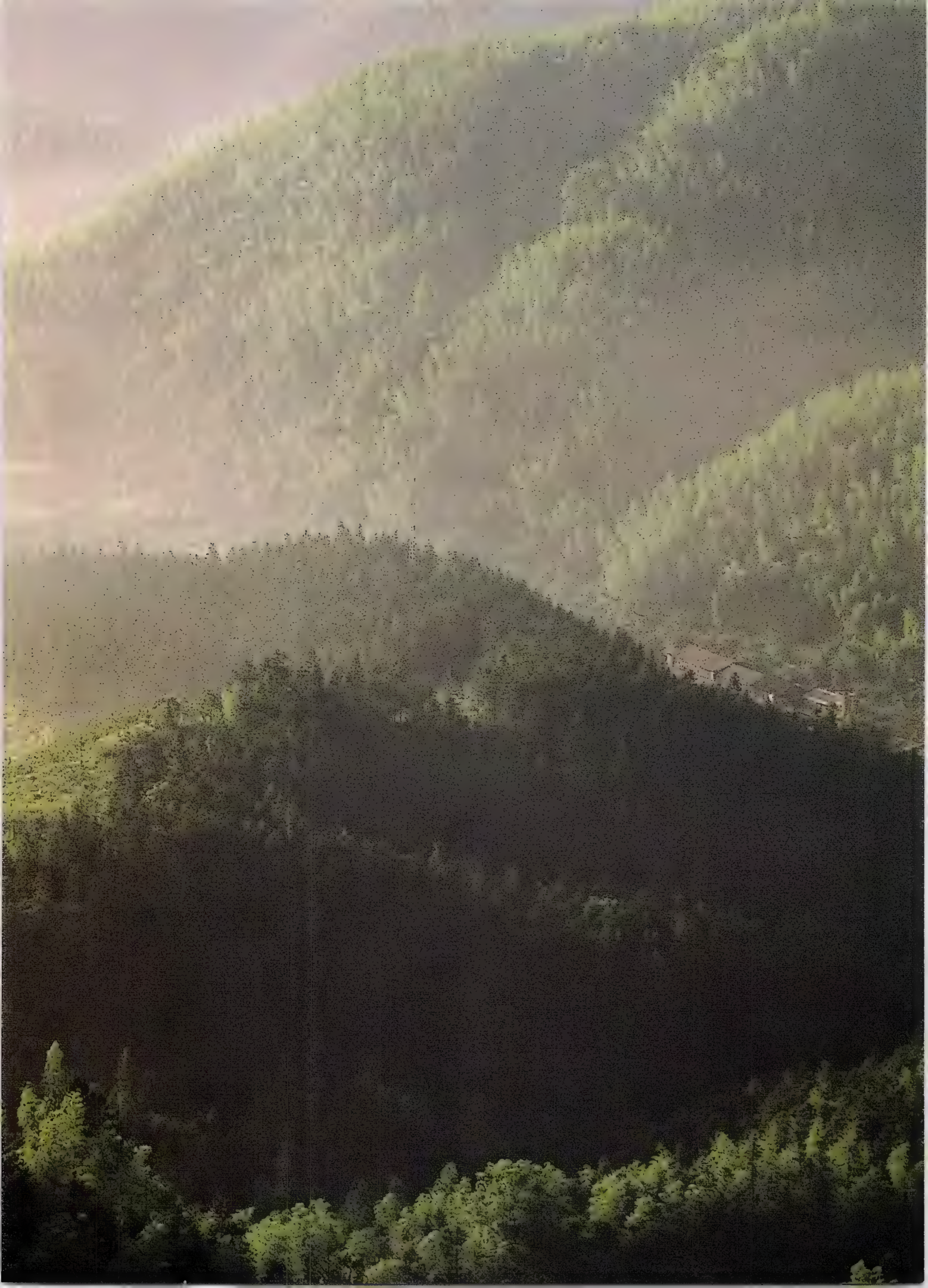


1. Tengwang Tower in Nanchang by the Ganjiang River (by Tai Chi Yin)
2. The background is Dragon and Tiger Mountain where Taoism originated. (by Shi Baoxiu)
3. The locals doing their morning exercises in August 1 Square, Nanchang. (by Shi Baoxiu)
4. A statue of one of The Eight Mountain Dwellers, members of the Ming royal family who lived as recluses in Qingyunpu for many years. (by Shi Baoxiu)
5. A meditation class, Nanchang



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Sanzhualun • Lushan



SANZHUALUN Sanzhualun is a state forest park located near Jing'an Town, 50 kilometres north-west of Nanchang. The park has densely grown trees and bamboo, dotted with small bridges, streams and village houses. It is wonderfully peaceful. There is a Tang-dynasty Buddhist temple, known as Baofeng (Precious Peak) Temple, which has been recently renovated. The natural scenery along Daxin River at the foot of the hill here is relatively unspoilt.

TRAVELLER'S TIPS Get off the train at Nanchang, and from there take a long-distance bus to Jing'an. Hire a car to tour the forest park for one or two days. ♦ **Local food:** mountain delicacies and wild vegetables. ♦ **Accommodation:** Jing'an Guesthouse in Jing'an. The Luojiaping Holiday Mountain Villa is located in the forest, and a room costs 50 yuan per night. ♦ **Local specialities:** Carved bamboo pen holders.





MOUNT LUSHAN Mount Lushan is the best-known mountain on the Beijing-Kowloon Railway. Since it is so pleasantly cool in summer, it has become a popular summer retreat over the past hundred years. The leaders of the Kuomintang and the Communists all had their villas here.

Mount Lushan is famous for its "sea of clouds". In summer, the mountain is enveloped by mist and cloud which constantly changes formation, and it is wonderful to watch from above.

In autumn, the tree leaves on the mountain turn red, yellow, brown, and even purple, creating a colourful panorama. In the Lushan Botanical Garden, these trees are particularly concentrated and are especially enjoyable to look at.

It often snows on the mountain in winter. Sometimes, the snow is knee-deep. The white world formed on Mount Lushan is also very attractive.

TRAVELLER'S TIPS ♦ **Routes:** Leave the train at Jiujiang and take a minibus from the railway station to the mountain. One or two days are enough to tour the mountain. Minibuses and taxis run from Guling Street (on the mountain) to all the scenic spots of Lushan Mountain. ♦ **Local food:** Mountain frogs, stone fungus, and stone fish. ♦ **Accommodation:** The rates in the three-star hotels are 300-500 yuan per room per night. ♦ **Local specialties:** Cloud and Mist Tea, bamboo sticks.

Previous page: The forest park in Sanzhualun (by Shi Baoxiu)
 1. Flowers on the peak of Sanzhualun Mountain (by Shi Baoxiu) 2. The statues of 800 buddhist immortals housed in the renovated Baofeng Temple near Jing'an (by Shi Baoxiu)
 3. Kuangzhong Forest Park in Jing'an, 50 kilometres north-west of Nanchang. 4. Autumn on Mt. Lushan (by Yin Xixiang) 5. Cable cars on Mt. Lushan (by Wu Chenbin)



JIUJIANG

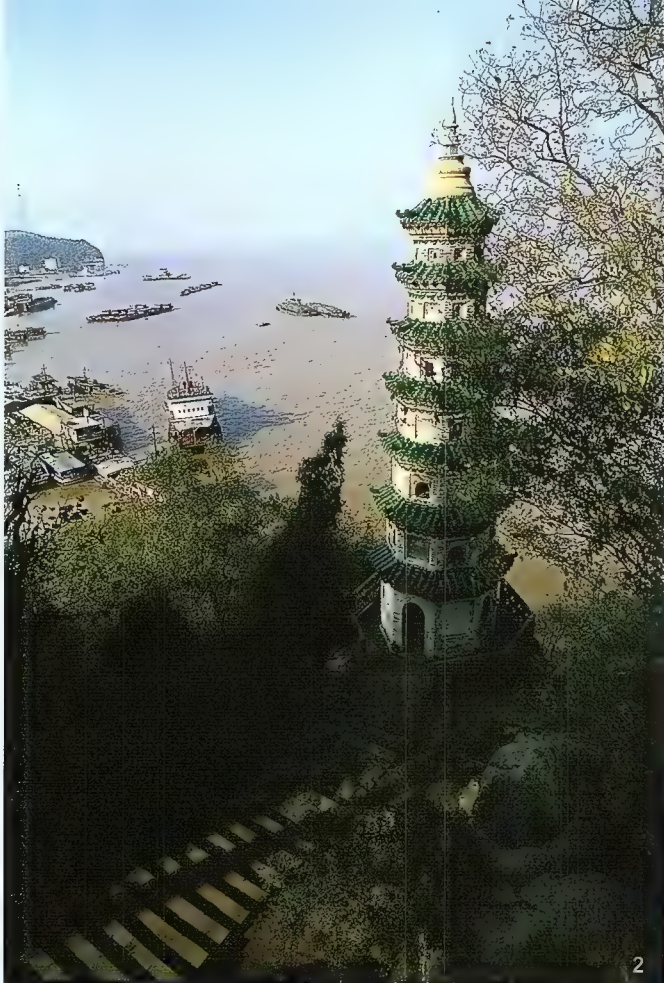
The next stop north of Nanchang is Jiujiang, and the train arrives there at about noon. The city is right on the Yangtse River. Originally a large river port, it has now become more important as a communications hub since the completion of the Beijing-Kowloon Railway.

There are several places of interest in the city, such as Gantang (Sweet Crab Apple) Lake, Yanyu (Mist and Rain) Pavilion, Nengren Temple and an ancient pagoda. Close to the bridgehead is Pipa Pavilion, based on the poem by the famous Tang poet, Bai Juyi. Outside Jiujiang, and to the east across Poyang Lake, is Shizhong (Stone Bell) Hill. Though small, the hill has winding paths to the top and steep cliffs overlooking the Yangtse River, which make it very picturesque. Over in Poyang Lake is a hill called Shoe Hill, so named after its shape. The cliffs on all sides make it resemble a giant shoe floating on the water.



TRAVELLER'S TIPS ♦ Travel Route: Get off the train at Jiujiang and use public buses to get around the city. There is a regular bus to Hukou, and from there you can catch a pedicab to get to the foot of Stone Bell Hill. A ferry runs from Hukou to Shoe Hill. One day should be enough to visit all of the sites mentioned above. ♦ **Local food:** Xunyang Fish,





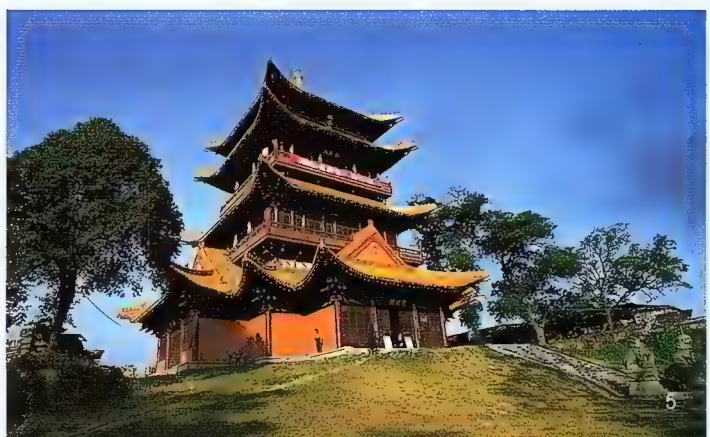
Shuihu Pork. ♦ **Accommodation:** There are many hotels in Jiujiang, especially along the river and near the ferry. The room rate at Nanhu Hotel is under 300 yuan per standard room per night. ♦ **Local specialities:** Osmanthus flowers, osmanthus teacakes, crunchy confections.

JINGDEZHEN You may have heard of the name Jingdezhen before, as nearly half of the famous Chinese chinaware is made here. You may regret not going to visit Jingdezhen after arriving at Jiujiang, since it is only 160 kilometres away — a relatively short distance in such a vast country. It takes about three hours to get there by road.

You will see porcelain everywhere in the city, especially in the old streets in the city centre. The largest china pieces can be as tall as three metres, while the smallest ones as tiny as a wren and as thin as paper. There is an ancient porcelain market which is worth going to, but you need to be wary of possible fake pieces on sale.

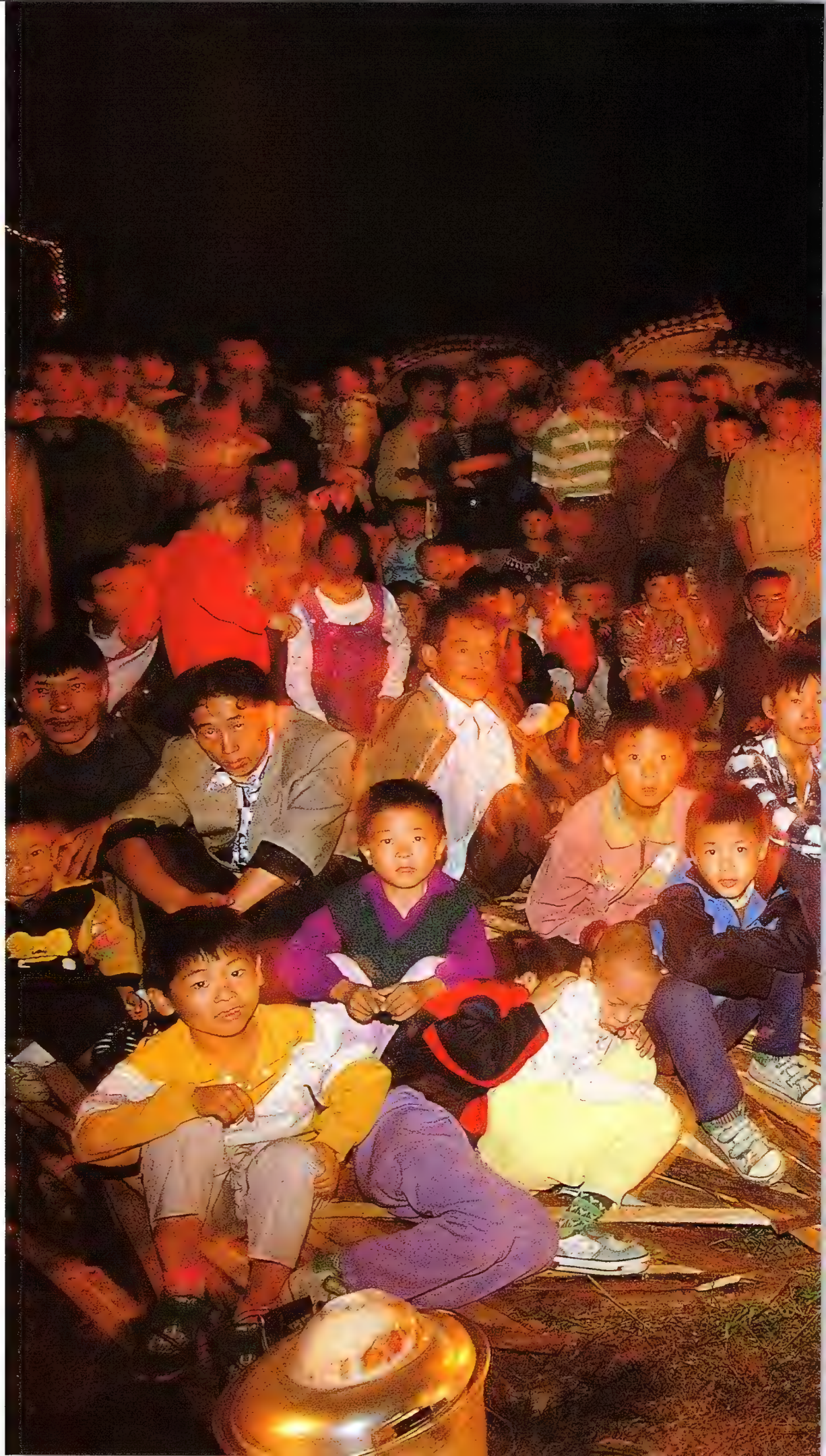
TRAVELLER'S TIPS ♦ **Travel Route:** Leave the train at Jiujiang and stay the night there. The next morning, depart at 7 a.m. from Jiujiang, arriving at Jingdezhen at 10 a.m. Visit the Porcelain and Pottery Exhibition, Ancient Porcelain Exhibition, and the Ancient Kiln and Porcelain Street. Return to Jiujiang at 5 p.m. ♦ **Local food:** Wonton soup with cake. ♦ **Accommodation:** There are many star-rated hotels. At Jingdezhen Guesthouse the rate is about 300 yuan per standard room per night. ♦ **Local speciality:** Chinaware.

1. Yanyu Pavilion. The legend has it that General Zhou Yu once commanded his army from here during the period of Three Kingdoms. (by Shi Baoxiu)
 2. Mt. Shizhong, located at the junction of Poyang Lake and the Yangtse River (by Shi Baoxiu)
 3. Tao Yuanming Memorial Hall in the suburbs of Jiujiang. Tao was a famous poet in the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317 – 420). (by Shi Baoxiu)
 4. The 7.6-kilometre-long Yantse Bridge near Jiujiang (by Shi Baoxiu)
 5. Ceramics and pottery by famous artists are displayed and sold in this mansion in Jingdezhen. (by Shi Baoxiu)
- Next page: This lighting of a furnace marks the beginning of the Ceramics Festival held every year in mid-October. (by Shi Baoxiu)



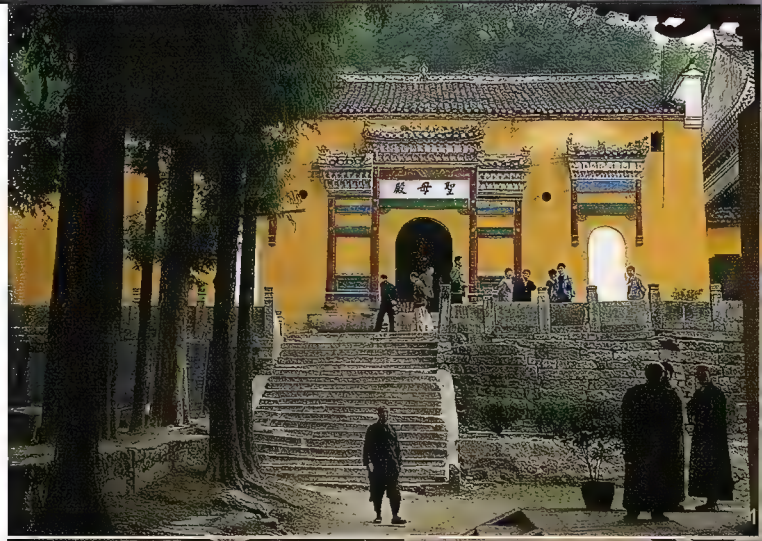


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Huangmei Qichun Xishui Huanggang



1. The Wuzhu Temple is the sacred place of the fifth Buddhist abbot. (Shan Xiaogang)
2. Huangmei opera being performed (Shan Xiaogang)
3. The great medicine master Li Shizhen used to practise from this clinic-cum-dispensary in Qichun. (by Shan Xiaogang)
4. Dried snakes, destined for medical use (by Shan Xiaogang)
5. Chibi Park in Huanggang, near Huangzhou (by Shan Xiaogang)
6. Wenyiduo Park in Xishui





Having crossed the eight-kilometre Yangtze River Bridge, the train arrives in the eastern part of Hubei Province, a rather hilly area. Many places in this region have long been well known, but few people have ever visited them because of their inaccessibility. Thanks to the launch of the Beijing-Kowloon Railway, this area has become much easier to reach.

HUANGMEI

Huangmei is just opposite the city of Jiujiang, on the other side of the Yangtze River. It is the next place the train comes to after Jiujiang. In the Huangmei area, there is the Fourth-Master and Fifth-Master Temple. These are places where the Zen Buddhist masters of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) used to teach. Now the Fourth Master Temple is left only with a pagoda, a pavilion, a bridge, a hall and a small house. The Fifth Master Temple, 25 kilometres from the city, is much more complete. Particularly magnificent is the Rainbow Bridge in front of the temple, with a beautiful pavilion built on it.

QICHUN

Qichun is also just next to the new railway. It is famous as the hometown of a Ming-dynasty pharmacist, Li Shizhen. Places of interest here include his mausoleum, Xuanmiao Temple, Immortal's Terrace, Triangle Hill and the Tongzhang Hot Springs.

XISHUI

Xishui, also on the new railway, is the next stop north of Qichun. This is the hometown of Wen Yiduo, a famous contemporary poet. The Lanxi Spring here is believed to be the third largest of its kind in the country. It is about 30 kilometres from the town.

HUANGGANG

If you get off the train at Huangzhou, the next station along the line from Xishui, you can reach the city of Huanggang. To get there you take a bus for 30 kilometres from Huangzhou. A famous battle took place here over 2,000 years ago, and today the battleground has been converted into a park. Li Siguang, a noted geologist who died in the 1970s, was a native of Huanggang. His memorial museum is also in the city.

TRAVELLER'S TIPS

This area is full of ancient sites and former residences of famous people. ♦ **Local food:** Steamed bream fish, Dongbo pork and cakes. ♦ **Accommodation:** All the above areas have state-run guesthouses which have reasonable prices. ♦ **Local specialities:** Health products, embroidery and incense.



THE DABIE MOUNTAIN AREA

After making a stop at Macheng, the Beijing-Kowloon train No.106 enters the Dabie Mountains. It does this during the night and goes through many tunnels, so there is little opportunity to look out at the dramatic landscape. If you do decide to make a stop, there are some beautiful and ancient places to visit.

Not far from Macheng is Tortoise Peak (Guifeng), which is 1,259 metres high. The slopes here are populated with unusually shaped pine trees, rocks and treacherous paths. There is a bus running the 30 kilometres between the town centre and the mountain.

Another mountain worth visiting for its beauty is the Heavenly Village Mountain (Tiantangzhai), 1,700 metres high, 50 kilometres east of Tortoise Peak. Its inaccessibility in the past has barred people from coming to see it, and for years it has remained unnoticed. Those who do have the fortune of going there will immediately be impressed with its natural beauty. The surrounding mountains have steep rock faces and tower high into the sky. There are rock pine bushes, as short as one-third of a metre but nevertheless hundreds of years old, and tall Chinese pines that fill the mountain valleys. The region is often visited by clouds and mists in summer, while in winter the peaks are crowned with snow.

If you were to stay on the train and disembark instead at Xinxian, you would find yourself in the middle of the Dabie Mountain area. Around Xinxian there are 47 mountain peaks. Incense Burner Peak (Xianglufeng), just 20 kilometres from the town, is scattered with strange-looking rocks which look as if they have been chopped by huge axes. At the foot of the mountain is a green lake with an verdant island on it. Surrounding the lake are European-style villas, whose reflections in the water create a myriad of colours. The room rates here are only about 100 yuan per night.

Xinxian used to be a Red Army base, and there are over 10 sites associated with the dramatic events which took place in the 1930s. The Red Army owned its first aeroplane in 1930, and this is now on display in Xinxian Museum.

Huangchuan is the next stop along the railway and marks the northern perimeter of the Dabie Mountains. Here the terrain is relatively flat and gentle. This is where the State of Huang was founded during the Spring and Autumn Period, nearly 3,000 years ago. Naturally the county abounds in interesting and historical sites. There are two iron flag poles standing in front of the Temple of Lord Guan by a lake south of the town. Known as "treasures ensuring the stability of Huangchuan County", they are 18 metres tall and weigh 17.5 tons each.

Both of the poles are rendered with the caricatures of two coiling dragons.



The Dabie Mountain Area

TRAVELLER'S TIPS

A two-day excursion allows enough time to see both Tortoise Peak and Heavenly Village Peak.

◆ **Local food:** Wild vegetables from the mountain and dog meat.

◆ **Accommodation:** There are holiday villas at Tortoise Peak.

◆ **Local specialities:** Ceramics from Macheng, ginkgo fruit and chestnuts from Xinxian, and embroidery and fragrant rice from Huangchuan.





1. Guan Yu Temple with two iron flagpoles in Huangchuan (by Shan Xiaogang)
2. The steep ridges of Heavenly Peak (by Shan Xiaogang)
3. A farmhouse in the Dabie Mountains (by Shan Xiaogang)
4. Xinxian was the home of General Xu Shiyu of the People's Liberation Army. (by Shan Xiaogang)
5. View from Incense Burner Peak in the Dabie Mountains (Shan Xiaogang)
6. Guifeng Peak, Macheng (by Shan Xiaogang)



Fuyang - Bozhou

After going through Henan Province, the railways continues north-east into Anhui Province. The first major stop it makes here is at Fuyang.

FUYANG This city lies on the middle reaches of the Yinghe River. The land around Fuyang is mainly flat but has some gentle hills, and is dotted with lakes. Fuyang is next to West Lake. It is said that this stretch of water was very large in ancient times and was written about by famous writers. One of them thought it was equally beautiful as the West Lakes of Hangzhou and Yangzhou.

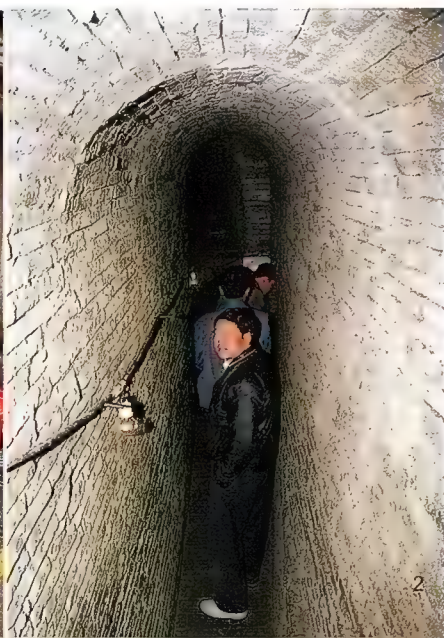
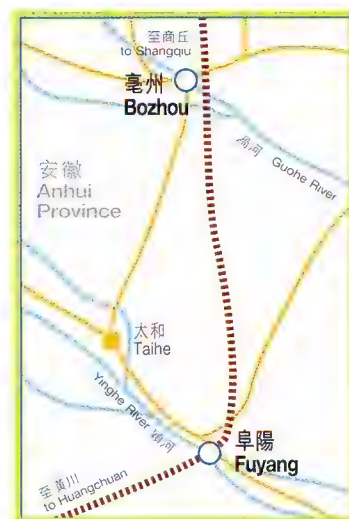
BOZHOU The railway heads directly north from Fuyang to a town called Bozhou, 110 kilometres away. The town has a vast history and many historical sites still stand as testimony to this. The town was made into a capital city over 3,000 years ago, by a king in the Shang Dynasty. Also, Cao Cao, a famous ruler during the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280), was born here, as was Hua Tuo, his doctor, who once proposed the idea of cutting the ruler's head open with an axe in order to remove a tumour. Unfortunately, the ruler suspected Hua Tuo's motives, and had him thrown into jail, where later the physician died. Nevertheless, much of his writings were kept and form some of the basis of Chinese medicine today.

In the old section of the city are the remains of underground tunnels built two to three metres underground. It is believed that they date as far back as the late Song and early Yuan Dynasties (1270-1368) and were used by the army. Recently a section of one of the tunnels has been restored for the benefit of tourists.

There is a magnificent Qing-dynasty theatre in Bozhou. It has bell and drum towers which are beautifully carved. Some of the decorations depict ancient opera plots, with the terraces, towers, chariots, horses, flowers, birds and animals involved look extremely vivid.

TRAVELLER'S TIPS Along the Anhui section of the Beijing-Kowloon Railway, most people choose Bozhou as the major place to visit. At least a day trip is advisable here. ♦ **Local food:** "Grape Fish", "Fish Biting Mutton", sweet and sour goose, Bozhou pancakes and pancakes filled with mutton.

♦ **Accommodation:** The recommended place to stay is the two-star Bozhou Guesthouse, where a standard room costs about 200 yuan per night. ♦ **Local specialities:** Fuyang coloured sculptures, papercuts, Bozhou traditional Chinese medicine and Gujing liqueur.



1. Snacks being served from huge tureens in Bozhou (by Shan Xiaogang)
2. The tunnels used by the Southern Song-dynasty army in Bozhou to fight against invasion by the Jin army from the north (by Shan Xiaogang)
3. Playing on a hill outside Bozhou (Shan Xiaogang)
4. Drums manufactured in Bozhou
5. This pagoda by the West Lake in Fuyang dates back to the Song Dynasty. (by Shan Xiaogang)
6. Bozhou, the birthplace of the famous master of medicine, Hua Tuo, has long been known as a "medicine town". (by Shan Xiaogang)



Shangqiu • Heze

SHANGQIU

One of the stops on the Beijing-Kowloon Railway line is Shangqiu, in Henan Province. This city and its hinterland is steeped in history, with over 20 sites to visit. You might find that there is not enough time to see them all, so here are a few that you might choose to visit.

Yubo Platform is named after the son of a tribal chief, who, 5,000 years ago, was appointed to construct a calendar based on observing the trajectory of Mars. After his death he was buried here on the platform. A few thousand years later he was mistakenly remembered as the "God of Fire", and a temple was built in his honour on a hill nearby. It still stands to this day, having been first constructed in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), then later given additions and repairs in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

Yingtianfu Academy was a prestigious centre of learning established in the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127). It is located on the South Town Lake in Shangqiu County, in blissfully peaceful surroundings.

The ancient city wall is well worth climbing. It is 4,000 metres long, and in good condition, despite being built as far back as the Ming Dynasty. The four gate towers still stand magnificently there. A moat encircles the city walls, with the willow trees on each bank screening the ancient ramparts behind.

TRAVELLER'S TIPS

There are in fact two Shangqius: Shangqiu City and Shangqiu County Town. The latter is less than 10 kilometres south of the city, and contains most of the historical sites. The train will be stopping at the city, so you may wish to find accommodation here (as it is easier to do so here than in the smaller town) and make a day trip to the county town. You will be able to see several places of interest in one day. ♦ **Local specialities:** Preserved and pickled vegetables, wicker objects and fur toys.

HEZE

As the train proceeds north from Shangqiu and enters Shandong Province, Heze is the first station it comes to. This city is known as the "Home of Peonies". Every year, in mid-April, peony flowers blossom everywhere here.

One place to see them is the Caozhou Peony Garden. Although in the centre of Heze, it covers an area of 100 hectares and is planted with more than 500 species of peonies. At the centre of the garden is a lookout point, aptly called the Watching Flowers Tower, built in a traditional Chinese style.

Cock- and goat-fighting are popular in Heze. During the Peony Flower Festival, the two activities are held near the Caozhou Peony Garden.

TRAVELLER'S TIPS

It is really worthwhile visiting Heze during the Peony Festival (around April 20 each year). One day is enough to enjoy the flowers, and then you may want to spend two more days going to other villages famous for their peonies, such as Zhaolou, Helou, Liji and Wanglizhuang. ♦ **Local food:** Sesame-oil fried dumplings, mutton buns, five-fragrance smoked fish, wine-marinated fish, wild vegetables. ♦ **Accommodation:** There are two- and three-star hotels in Heze. At the Heze Guesthouse, it is 200-300 yuan per room per night. ♦ **Local specialities:** Peony tree root bark (used in herbal medicine), and Caozhou dried persimmon.

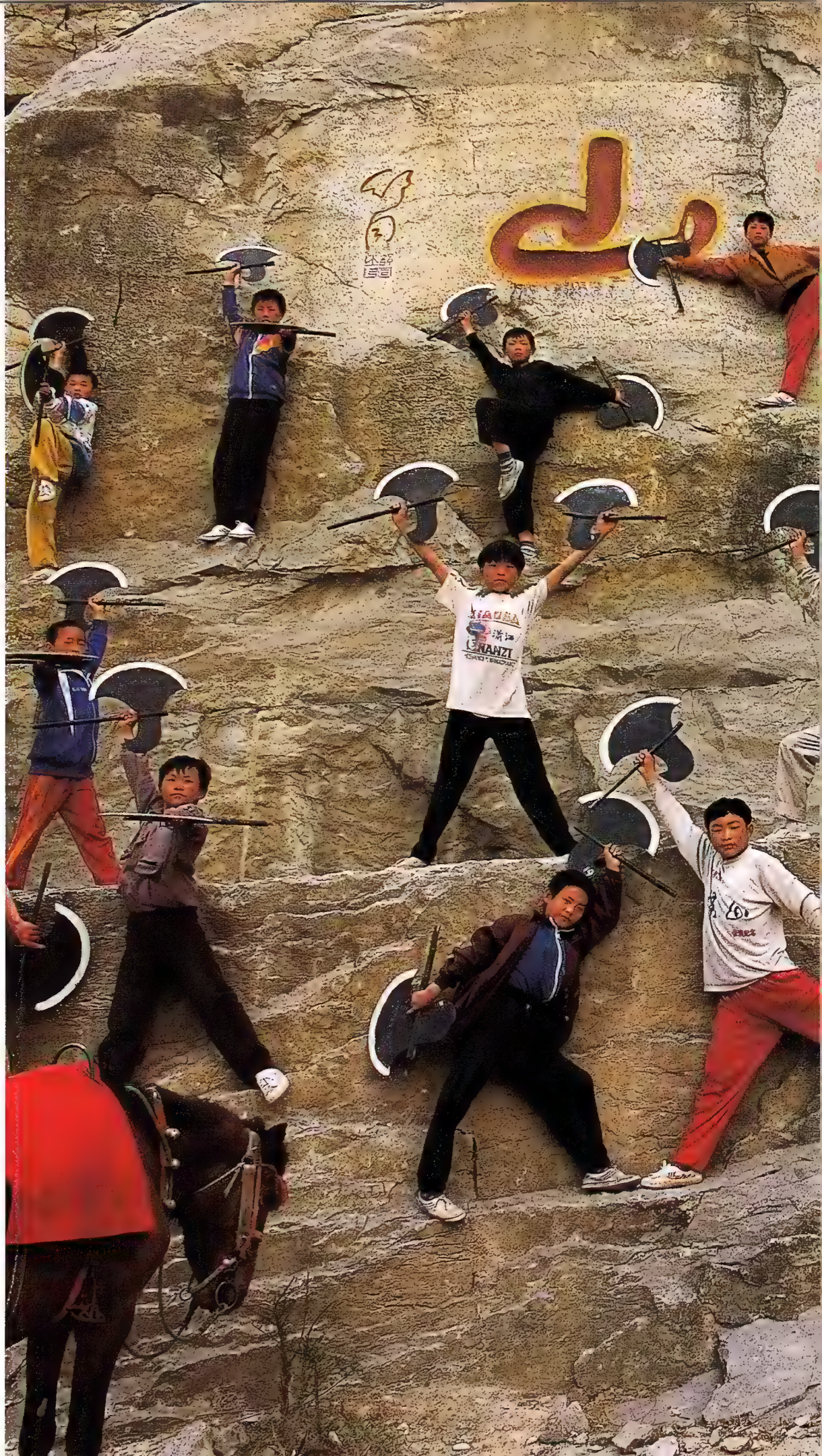


1. Entrance to the Peony Garden in Caozhou (by Li Nan)
2. A food court in Heze (by Li Nan)
3. Shangqiu is at the intersection of the Beijing-Kowloon and Longhai Railways.
(by Shan Xiaogang)
4. The tomb of Sui Ren, a legendary figure said to have taught the Chinese how to make fire.
(by Shang Xiaogang)
5. A corner of a well-preserved Ming-dynasty city wall (by Shan Xiaogang)
6. Yanbo Terrace is a cultural landmark in Shangqiu (by Shang Xiaogang)





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Liangshan Yanggu Liaocheng Linqing

LIANGSHAN

The special express train No.106 arrives at Liangshan station at midnight. Near Liangshan there is an ancient hill fortress, where 108 rebels in the Song Dynasty rallied to fight the corrupt imperial court, as described in the classic novel *Outlaws of the Marsh*. The site is less than two kilometres from the town centre. All the ruins there relate to stories narrated in *Outlaws of the Marsh*. Nearby is the so-called "Horse Trail for Song Jiang," the leader of the rebel army. On the trail is a flat piece of land at the top of the hill, which is as large as two football grounds. It is said to have been a military drill ground. The original Zhongyi (Loyalty and Righteousness) Hall was destroyed and a new one has now been rebuilt.

YANGGU

Across the Yellow River to the north of Liangshan is Yanggu, the next stop on the railway. Here a man famous for his strength, Wu Song, beat a tiger to death with his bare hands. Jingyang Ridge, where he killed the tiger, is 17 kilometres from Yanggu county town. In the ancient cypress forest on the ridge is a tablet and temple erected in memory of Wu Song. The Shizilou (Lion Mansion), where Wu Song is said to have killed Ximen Qing to revenge the murder of his elder brother, is in the town itself. The special cakes sold at the food stalls outside the mansion are said to be made in the same way and have the same taste as those peddled by Wu Song's elder brother 1,000 years ago.

LIAOCHENG

Liaocheng is the next stop made after Yanggu. In the past, when the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal was in full operation, the city served as a water transport hub between the north and south of China. Guangyue Tower in the city is a famous ancient structure built in the early Ming Dynasty.



LINQING

Linqing City is the last station in Shandong on the Beijing-Kowloon Railway. Among its historical relics is a Buddhist statue and an ancient mosque, whose architecture is unique. An ancient city gate has been





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preserved in the older part of Linqing.

TRAVELLER'S TIPS

◆ **Travel Route:** Half a day is enough for visiting Liangshan. Then there is minibus service from Yanggu to Jingyang Ridge. Linqing's sites of interest are all in the city. It takes half a day at the most to visit them.

◆ **Local food:** Chunky beef, Lin Chong fish, Li Kui chicken, Song Jiang cakes, Wu Da cakes and Liangshan steamed buns. ◆ **Accommodation:** Shuipo Hotel in Liangshan Town and Jingang Hotel in Yanggu Town (both cost around 200 yuan per day).

◆ **Local specialties:** Liangshan liqueur and Jingyanggang Liqueur.

Previous page: Pupils demonstrating some of the moves learnt at the martial arts school in Lianshan (by Shan Xiaogang)

1. A sculpture based on "Wusong Beating the Tiger" from the classic tale *Outlaws of the Marsh*.
2. This stone marks the pass described in *Outlaws of the Marsh*.
3. Liao Cheng is known for carved gourds. (by Li Nan)
4. This dried up canal now acts as a resting place for locals. (by Li Nan)
5. Bricks produced here in Linqing were used to build the Great Wall, the Imperial Palace and mausoleums of Qing emperors. (by Li Nan)
6. This lone tower is all that remains of the ancient city of Linqing (by Li Nan)

Baiyangdian • Beijing

BAIYANGDIAN After entering Hebei Province, the Beijing-Kowloon Railway runs through Qinghe,

Hengshui, Raoyang, Hejian and Renqiu. The land throughout is a large flat plain. To the north of the city of Renqiu is Baiyangdian, an area known as the wetlands of North China.

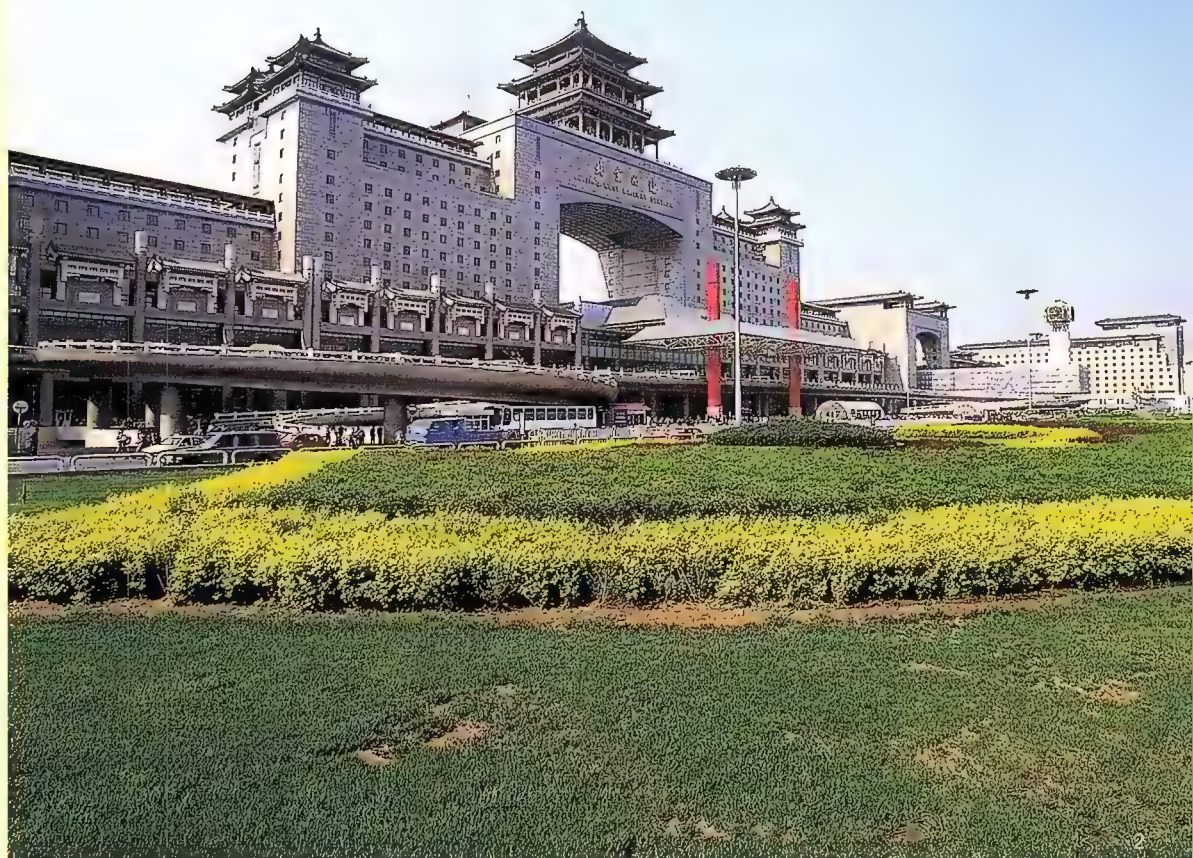
The whole region is crisscrossed by more than 3,000 rivers and ditches as well as some 100 ponds, where farmland and wetland mingle together. Numerous water-logged villages dot this part of the country like islands in the sea.

Apart from being a beautiful landscape, Baiyangdian abounds in fish, crabs and shrimps, as well as lotus. To watch the local fishermen rowing their small boats on the water is a charming experience. In autumn, the fallen reed flowers float like snow flakes on the water, and in winter, the whole area is frozen and looks like a huge piece of blue glass.

TRAVELLER'S TIPS

◆ **Travel Route:** Get off at Renqiu and head for Anxin (also called Xin'an) Town. From the Laowangdian pier there you can hire a motorboat for a trip on the water. The boat has six seats, and the cost is 100 yuan per hour. ◆ **Local food:** All sorts of delicacies from the lake. The most delicious are the mandarin fish, soft-shelled turtle and freshwater crabs. ◆ **Accommodation:** Renqiu Hotel, 200-300 yuan per night. ◆ **Local specialities:** Preserved eggs, straw weaving.





BEIJING

The special express train No.106 arrives at Beijing's West Station at 6:25 in the morning. From the concourse it is easy to get to the Beijing subway, so travellers can quickly get to the centre of Beijing. Three to five days' stay is the minimum recommended in the city, as there are so many places to see there. For the return trip to Hong Kong, you can take the Beijing-Kowloon express train No.97. The train travels at 140 kilometres per hour, and it takes only 30 hours to reach Kowloon Station. Not only is it a reasonably short journey, but looking at the scenes through the window will give you a wonderful taste of China. 📺

Translated by F. Huang, M. Xu, Z. Li

1. The waters of Baiyangdian are vital to the locals' livelihood. (by Xie Guanghui)
2. The West Station, terminus of the Beijing-Kowloon Railway in Beijing, is seven times bigger than the old station. (by Huo Dongfeng)



The Hanis in Yunnan

Article by Iris Wong

China's south-western province of Yunnan is not only known for its scenic beauty, but also as the home of more than 20 ethnic minorities which are known for, among other things, colourful costumes, distinctive ways of life and ethnic festivals. All of this makes a trip to Yunnan more enjoyable and rewarding.

Among them are the Hanis, who mainly inhabit the hilly regions between the Ailao and Wuliang mountains along the Honghe and Lancang rivers in south Yunnan.



With a total population of more than a million, the Hanis are divided into many branches, including the Aini along the Lancang River and in the Xishuangbanna area, the Hani along the Honghe River, the Biyue in Simao and Yuanjiang counties, the Kaduos and the Haoni, all under the collective name of Hani.

Their language belongs to the Yi language section of the Tibetan-Myanmar group of the Han-Tibetan language system. The Hani's ancestors were the Heyi tribe, active in the area south of the Dadu River during the 3rd century. Subsequently, they were known as "Heman" in the Tang

Dynasty (618-907), "Heni" in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) and "Woni" in the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties.

Their Land

The region in which they reside is

mountainous and has rich reserves of minerals such as tin, copper, iron and nickel. The nationally renowned "capital of tin" refers to Gejiu City, capital of the Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture along the Honghe River. The dense forests on the Ailao Mountain contain pine, cypress, palm trees, tung oil trees and camphor trees, all of which produce high-quality timber. There is also a wide range of rare animals and birds, including tigers, leopards, bears, deer, monkeys, peacocks, parrots and pheasants.

The Hani people are good at agriculture. Their terraced fields look magnificent. Covering the southern mountain slopes along the



Yuanjiang River, they can have as many as several hundred levels. Since the land is fertile and there is enough rainfall, all crops such as rice, corn, cotton, peanuts and tea, grow well here. The "Yunnan Green" and the "Pu'er" teas produced here are famous all over the world.

Costumes

The Hani like to make their own clothes with their homespun black cloth. For the menfolk, common attire includes a jacket and long trousers, with either a black or white turban. Hani women often wear collarless jackets over a pair of long trousers. The shoulders of their jackets, as well as seams, cuffs and trouser hems are colourfully embroidered. Women living in Xishuangbanna and along the Lancang River like to wear cropped shirts and close-fitting trousers. Their round caps with silver beads are works of beauty. Other Hani costumes include long A-line skirts which are either plain or pleated. Normally, women wear earrings, and in some regions it is also

fashionable to wear large necklaces and bracelets as well.

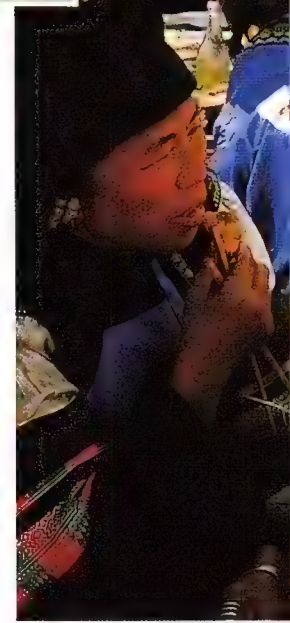
It is customary for the Hani women to show their marital status by means of costume and decorations. For some, the giveaway sign is in the number of braids they have.

Others tie their hair into buns or coils, and some show their marital status by the colour of their belts.

Houses

In most cases, Hani people's homes are built on the mountain slopes. A village may range from a dozen to about 400 households. In the Honghe River,

Yuanyang and Luchun areas, the houses are three storeys high and are built on stone foundations. Between the wooden pillars are earthen walls. The houses are more often crowned with thatch than tiled roofs. The ground floor is for small livestock, while the middle storey is the family's living quarters and for storage





of grain. The loft is used for storing vegetables. In Mojiang County, the houses are often built in big rows on earthen foundations and with flat roofs. At Xishuangbanna, the buildings are mostly of wood and bamboo with balconies.

Customs

In keeping with their tradition, the Hani people use the last one or two words in the fathers' names to form the first word in the children's names, a reflection of the patriarchal system.

Religious beliefs

Believing in a number of gods and worshipping their ancestors, the Hani hold the view that it is important to make sacrifices and pray to the gods of heaven, earth, the dragon trees, the god that protects the village and the family god. They also believe that sacrificial ceremonies or

witchcraft should be used when it is necessary to exorcise the bad spirits in the case of disaster or a local epidemic.

The Hani feel that the dragon tree protects the human race as a whole. Every year they make animal sacrifices to their respective village dragon tree, or, in the case of those who live

Previous: Hani people (by Chapmen Lee)

1. Ornaments of Hani women (Chen Anding) 2. Hani women (by An Yansheng)
3. A young woman making embroidery (by Xu Jiangming) 4. A ceremonial "Dragon Meal" of the Hani (Shao Zibo) 5. A house belonging to a Hani family (by Chapmen Lee)





on the south bank of the Honghe River, to their individual household dragon tree. The ritual is presided over by a master of ceremonies, and participants bring along food and wine to share. They also go to dragon tree forests to dance and drink, wishing each other a happy life and a bumper harvest.

The Hani in Xishuangbanna also hold an annual ceremony to make sacrifices to the village gate which is believed to be sacred. Those living inside the gate are thought to be



protected by the village god and supported by their fellow villagers. To go out of the gate is to depart from the village god and the collective protection of the village, and therefore it means to go into isolation.

There is also the custom of observing certain days of no labour. They refrain from productive activities for a day when there is death in the village, when wild animals enter the village, or when dogs jump onto a house roof, or when there is a fire.

Festivals

The most important holidays for the Hani are the Tenth Month and Sixth Month Festivals.

Their year begins in the 10th lunar month, therefore the Tenth Month Festival is really like a New Year's celebration. The festival proper lasts about six days, but some may stretch into two weeks. Pork is eaten and glutenous rice desserts are made. It is also a customary period when engagements are announced, and for women recently married to visit their parents.

The Sixth Month Festival, which falls on the 24th day of the sixth month on their lunar calendar, lasts three to six days. Oxen are killed as sacrificial offerings. Young people get together to compete at wrestling and to sing and dance. In some areas, people flash torches around their home or beat utensils as a way to expel evil spirits and any illness.

In more inland areas and along the Honghe River, the Hani also celebrate the Spring Festival, the Dragon Boat Festival and the Mid-Autumn Festival as the Han people do.

Marriage

Normally, young Hani people are given the freedom to find their own way in love. During festive occasions, they also engage in an antiphonal style of singing as a way of getting to know each other and then probably begin dating. Their marriage, however, has to gain the consent of their parents. In some areas arranged marriage is still practised.

The Biyue branch of the Hani have the custom of something which translates as a "road engagement". The two young lovers, wishing to marry, are required to take a walk accompanied by their parents from both sides. If they do not come across any wild animals during the walk, they are pronounced as formally engaged.

Marriage ceremonies vary widely from region to region. In most cases, however, the bride makes a show of tears as way to demonstrate her reluctance to leave her parents. Pigs and oxen are slaughtered and the wedding feast goes on for three days. There is much singing and dancing as well, which makes for a very lively occasion. Two or three days after the wedding, the bride goes home and will not return to her husband's place until rice planting begins.

Basically, the Hani practise monogamy. A man who divorces his wife and marry another woman is not only condemned, but also is compelled to pay some kind of alimony to his first wife's family. However, the taking in of a concubine is permitted if one's wife was unable to conceive for several years since the marriage.

Singing and Dancing

As a people who love to sing and dance, the Hani have a wide range of musical instruments, including three- or four-stringed fiddles, and various kinds of flutes. The *bawu*





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is an instrument unique to the Hani. Made of bamboo, the seven-inch-long flute has seven holes. Before it can be played, a device shaped like a duck's beak has to be attached as a mouthpiece. Its sound is deep and melodious. When played to accompany the strong and clear singing of the Hanis, the music produced is spirited and cheerful.

Culture

The Hani do not have their own written language, so they rely a lot on oral tradition for sharing their culture. They often recite fairytales, legends, poems, make-up stories, riddles or proverbs to each other. These passed from generation to generation by word of mouth. Their fairytales include the *Story of Creation* describing the birth

of all things in the world, *Story of the Flood* that portrays how man triumphed over a huge flood and *The Hani Crossing the River* which tells the historical move of the Hanis. Their poetry is recited at weddings, funerals, festivals, sacrificial ceremonies or other solemn occasions. With earnest and solemn tune, local songs are sung in the fields, eulogising love and labour.

Translated by F. Huang

1. Selecting tea leaves (by Chapmen Lee) 2. A Hani woman wearing traditional ornaments (by Chapmen Lee) 3. A folk dance of the Aini branch of Hani (by Shao Yu) 4. Spinning thread for producing their homespun cloth (by Chapmen Lee) 5. Terraced land in the Ailao Mountain area (by Wu Jialin)



LEISURE
TASTING



MELONS ALONG THE SILK ROAD

Photos by Xie Guanghui

Article by He Xiaozu, Zhi Lang





1

The melons of Hami and the grapes of Turpan in Xinjiang Autonomous Region have long been famous fruits in China. Far less known are the different varieties of tasty melons from the town of Anxi in Gansu Province. This small town used to be an important stop along the ancient Silk Road. The melons produced here are so delicious that the locals also called their town "Guazhou", which, literally, means Melon Town.



2

More Than a Dozen Varieties of Melons

On a sweltering hot day in August, we journeyed from Dunhuang to Anxi by bus. Along the way, gusts of hot air blasted our faces, but it was impossible to shut the windows to escape them, or the bus would have become a steam bath. However, after the heat of the journey, there was a relief — we were greeted by the sweet fragrance of piles of colourful melons on our arrival in Anxi.

More than a dozen varieties of melons, many green and others yellow, were stacked up on the streets. The melons are given names according to their appearance and taste: "Red Crunchy" has thin, green skin and is very sweet. "Golden Dragon" is big and looks like a pillow. Golden outside, it is white inside and has a special fragrance. "Mapi Drunk" originated in Lanzhou, but the ones produced in Anxi have far surpassed those of its home town both in flavour and sweetness. "Yellow Egg" tastes as sweet and smooth as cream ... and there are many others. The sight of them was already making our mouths water, and in no time we were indulging ourselves by devouring a big one.



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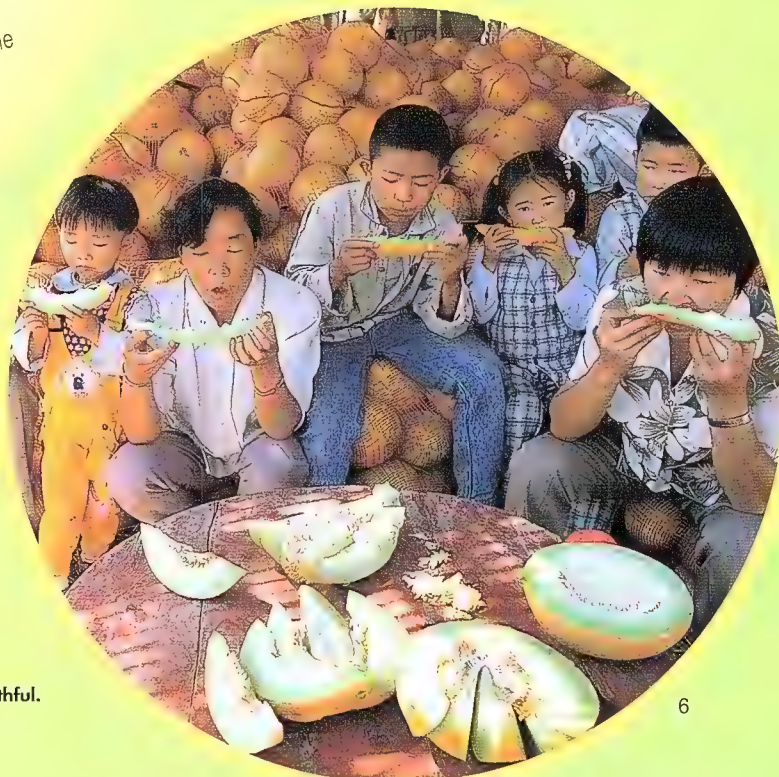
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The Art of Choosing a Melon

As soon as we found seats by a melon stall, the owner treated us with a big melon which could be as heavy as 10 kilogrammes.

After having five or six pieces each, our thirst was gone. But the melon was so delicious that we could not help wanting more. While we were gorging ourselves on the biggest ones, the stallholder advised us that size is not the ultimate criterion in making a choice. What counts are also the melon's shiny skin and the freshness of its base. The last step in selecting is to tap the melon with a finger to hear if it rings nicely. Following his guidance, we chose two more ripe and sweet melons and, again, finished them off.

Prices for the various melons are reasonable — the three big melons cost us only 20 yuan.



6

Previous page: Even a cheeky child knows how to take a break to cool down with a slice of melon.

1. Customers help themselves to the melons.
2. The first thing to do upon alighting from the bus is to quench one's thirst with melons.
3. From dawn to evening, melons are a must on hot days.
4. A truck driver who transports melons takes time off to enjoy a mouthful.
5. Besides melons, Anxi also produces a wide variety of fruits.
6. Hooked on melons, children and adults alike.


Ways to Eat Your Melon



1

Only when our appetite was satisfied did our eyes begin to roam over our surroundings. The people here each enjoy the melons in their own peculiar way. Sometimes two people will cut one in half to share, scooping the pulp out with a spoon. After this they will hold the hemispheric peel in the air over their upturned mouth to drain the last drop of the juice down their throat, like a drunk trying to extract the final drops from a bottle! Others skip proper meals and just eat biscuits or bread together with melon juice. Some will even do this for dinner, to save themselves the trouble of cooking in the oppressive heat. We stayed in the house of a melon farmer. That evening, we were generously treated to an array of melons and fruit. Among the melons we had, there was one particular type, called Zigua (Seed Melon), which is valued for its seeds. Our host reminded us to save the seeds for him because, when dried under the sun, they could become a favourite delicacy for the Chinese.

The Best Travel Companion

A journey along the Silk Road is a very exciting and rewarding experience, yet it is also a very physically demanding one. Even if you manage to remain sober, you will be haunted by the twin spectres of heat and thirst. Melons serve as the most effective exorcising agent for these bothersome conditions. Besides the melons, there are also other fruits grown along the Silk Road, including grapes, apricots, apples, pears, dates, peaches and even desert cherries. 

Translated by Winston Yau



2



3

Travellers' Tips

- **Transport:** Anxi lies 254 kilometres east of Jiayuguan Pass and 117 kilometres from Dunhuang. It is connected with both cities by State Highway 312, and the town is accessible by bus.
- **Accommodation:** Anxi Guesthouse has 123 beds and its restaurant can cater for 600 people at a time. A standard room costs 70 yuan per night.
- **Food:** The prime season for fruit and melons spans July through October. Prices for various melons are around 80 cents per kilogramme.



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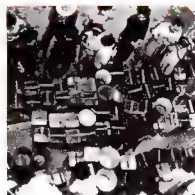
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1. Many families grow fruit in their backyards.
2. Truckloads of melons flow into the market.
3. A young girl enjoying her bite
4. Peaches and apples are a welcome alternative to melons.
5. Choosing the best

D I S C O V E R I E S

***The China River** on Which*



The waterfall in front of you is the one close to the source of Dongjiang River, in the Sanbai Mountain in Jiangxi Province.

It is right from here that the water flows thousands of miles to form rivers, lakes and finally fill in the Plover Cove Reservoir in Hong Kong, which provides fresh water to the region's six million people.

When the Hong Kong residents tap water at home, how many of them would have ever thought about the source of their drinking water?

Who would have ever imagined that there could be so many stories behind their pipe lines....

Photos & Article by Huang Yanhong

Hong Kong Depends



The Dongjiang is a river in China that supplies all the fresh water to Hong Kong.

Rising from the mountains in southern Jiangxi Province, it flows through a series of channels and reservoirs before being ready to reach the houses of six million Hong Kong residents.

All this did not come about easily. To supply Hong Kong with enough water,

one river almost had its direction changed and another was made to flow backwards.

Thousands of people had to evacuate their homes to make room for the reservoirs.

As a Hong Kong resident myself, I decided to investigate the source of such vital water,

and so I made a trip to the Sanbai Mountains.

HONG KONG'S WORST WATER CRISIS



Before I set out to find the source of the Dongjiang River, I was told about the drought that Hong Kong had endured in 1964. It was the worst drought in its history. For six months on end there was not a single drop of rain. Water rationing started, and it was supplied for four hours a day. However, after a month, when it became obvious that the drought was not ending soon, water was then supplied only every other day. The Buddhist Association held a ceremony on Lantau Island, and many eminent monks gathered in Po Lin Monastery to pray for water. Hong Kong's Christians followed suit, holding a prayer meeting in a public playground. Unfortunately, all these efforts proved to be in vain, and, as the drought continued, water was supplied once in every four days. Opportunistic merchants made a fortune from selling four-gallon pails at hugely inflated prices. Even the price of a plastic bag soared to the equivalent of US\$4, at a time when the average wage in Hong Kong was little more than US\$13 a month.

Long lines of people, with water pails in their hands, would form around public hydrants. People had to get up very early to queue in order to obtain their allotted share of water when it was supplied. To save water, some people would climb up the nearby mountains to wash clothes in the water that seeped through the cracks in the rock.

1. An old woman rushing for water during a water crisis in Hong Kong (by Kiu Liang)
2. Receiving one's ration of water
3. Children in a village fetching water from the mountain
4. A Hong Kong street scene – waiting for water







ATTEMPTS MADE TO SOLVE THE CRISIS

One day in the late 1950s, the chief of the Hong Kong's Water Supply Bureau was swimming in what was then a gulf. When he was enjoying the seascape, an idea struck him: Why not build a dam across the gulf, drain the sea water and fill it with fresh water? The idea was carried out in 1960 and it took seven years to finish the project, the Plover Cove Reservoir. A few years later, Wanyi Reservoir followed as it was built on what used to be an ancient water course. Together they ensure water supply for Hong Kong at that time.

PREMIER ZHOU ENLAI'S CONCERN

Premier Zhou Enlai was very concerned about the general shortage of water in Hong Kong. In the early 1960s, under his guidance, the Shenzhen Reservoir was built, and then the project to divert water from the Dongjiang River was started.

Shenzhen Reservoir is encircled with iron railings to ward off possible polluters. The area is closely protected. I myself would have been unable even to get permission to mount the dam as a photographer but for help from a security guard.

The aim of diverting water from the Dongjiang River to the Shenzhen Reservoir was to increase the limited water supply feeding into the reservoir. A pumping station was built to pump huge amounts of Dongjiang River water into a ditch, guiding it to Shenzhen Reservoir. Part of the water is supplied directly to water purification factories in the Hong Kong area, and part of it is diverted to Plover Cove Reservoir. As much as two million cubic metres of earth moving and masonry was involved in this immense project, which, if built into dyke one square metre across, would be 10 times the distance between Guangzhou and Hong Kong.

1. Landscape on the upper reaches of Dongjiang River
2. On the banks of the Xinfengjiang Reservoir
3. Farmland irrigated by the Dongjiang water
4. A dam built on the upper reaches of the river



Jiangxi Province

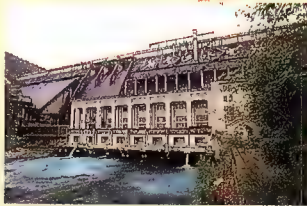
Dongjiang River and Its Diversion System



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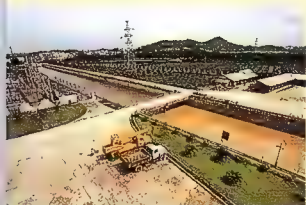
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TRAVELLERS' TIPS

• To Get to Xinfeng Reservoir

Go to the nearest town, Heyuan, first, which can be reached by taking a train from Shenzhen to Jiujiang. The journey takes four hours. From Heyuan you can get a taxi or Bus No. 2 to the reservoir. It is easy to find accommodation at Heyuan.

• To Get to the Source of the Dongjiang River:

Take a train of the same line from Shenzhen and alight at Xinfeng (Faithful Harvest) or Dingnan. From either of these places you can catch a long-distance bus to Anyuan, and the trip takes about two hours from either town. Then, taking a local bus, you will arrive at Xinfeng (New Wind) at the foot of Sanbai Mountain, where the river is originated. After disembarking from the bus you will need to walk up the mountain for about two hours before you reach the waterfall near the source.

You may stay at Anyuan Hotel, where a standard room costs 90 yuan a night.

1. Dongfeng Reservoir in Anyuan, Jiangxi
2. The Sanbai Mountain Waterfalls
3. Xinfengjiang Power Station
4. Xinfengjiang Reservoir, a lake of everlasting greenness
5. One of the pipe stations, Qiaotou
6. Shenzhen Reservoir
7. Water pipes in Hong Kong
8. Plover Cove Reservoir, Hong Kong



MAKING A RIVER FLOW BACKWARDS

As my investigation progressed, I came to discover that, in order to divert water to Shenzhen, a river has been forced to flow backwards. While the torrential Dongjiang River runs all the way to Humen, where the sea is, another stream of water is elevated and guided away through a man-made channel. The Shima River originally flowed from Shenzhen into the Dongjiang River. However, nowadays, the water at the confluence with the Dongjiang River is repeatedly raised to such a high level that the Shima River is forced to flow backwards to the Shenzhen Reservoir. It is said that the Shima River was not successfully made to do this until a series of eight pumping stations was built and the water level raised by 47 metres.

THE MAN WHO ENSURES THE WATER FLOWS IN SAFETY

Near the dam there is an observation station in which I saw an old man fixing a current metre. At 65, the man who introduced himself as Mr. Shu has been working in the field of hydrology for 40 years. Together with two other men, Mr. Shu was entrusted with the job of gathering and interpreting the data and information about the flow of the river to ensure normality of things. Somewhat in disorder, the observation station is where Mr. Shu and his colleagues work and live. They went home only twice a year. A duty-conscious man, Mr. Shu, who could not allow himself to have a long interview with me, was soon drawn back to his desk and got absorbed in his work again for the benefit of Hong Kong, a city he had never been to.

1. Ready to take readings from the current meter
2. Calculating the current velocity
3. The picturesque Xinfengjiang Reservoir
4. Flowing far to reach Hong Kong







A LAKE OF EVERLASTING GREENNESS

Heyuan is a city in Guangdong Province where the Xinfeng River runs into the Dongjiang River. Towards the end of the 1950s, a 100-metre high dam was built on the tributary, north-west of the city. Electricity has been generated from there ever since, and there is also a huge lake. Several years later, when the local people learned that the water was to flow to Hong Kong by way of Shenzhen, they began a protracted campaign to protect the environment around the lake.

I could barely wait to see this lake, called Xinfeng Reservoir, when I arrived in Heyuan. After merely eight kilometres of travel I found myself in a lovely green world, and yet it was only a few hours' bus ride from Guangzhou. I had always thought that such a limpid lake could only exist in Tibet.

The environmental protection facilities in and around the lake are surprisingly good. Dustbins are available on the shore and on board the pleasure boats. The dock is cleaned by a crew everyday, as is the surface of the lake.

A waste water treatment system has been set up at an expense of 500,000 yuan on the Qisong Island, the only place where a limited number of tourists are allowed to stay. The local people's concern for the environment manifests itself in the slogans which are printed everywhere. Among them is the line, "Be kind to nature", which is my favourite and the most inspiring of them.

In a booklet published by the local authorities, I came across the aphorism: "The earth is not what we have inherited from our ancestors, but what we have borrowed from our descendants." It is said that this line is quoted from the inhabitants of Lanzarote Island, which has been recognised by the UN as one of the innovators in environmental protection.

From chatting with boat owners at the side of the lake, I was surprised to learn that most of them had previously made a living by selling firewood which they cut from the trees. "Are you still cutting trees now?" I asked. "Of course not," they replied. This answer came as a great relief to me.

A local official told me that these boat owners were actually urging the government to accelerate the afforestation effort, because only when the mountains and the lake area have become more thickly covered with trees, will more tourists be attracted there and then the demand for boating trips will increase.

This is plainly a positive cycle. Tourism has enhanced public awareness of the environment, and its protection has in turn proved a great boon to tourism.

Knowing that if the number of tourists to the area are not controlled, things will get out of hand, the local authorities have a point of keeping tourism there on a moderate scale. The result is that water quality in the lake has been maintained at the highest level over the last few years. If the daily number of tourists were to

increase to 2,000, then it is estimated that there would be three tons of garbage to dispose of. Daily income from ticket sales would be 30,000 yuan (US\$3,900), which, as things stand at present, is more than enough to look after the local environment. If the number of tourist boats is kept below 100, the lake's surface of 370 square kilometres won't be contaminated.

LAND SUBMERGED FOR HONG KONG'S SAKE

Like a vast expanse of liquid silver, Xinfeng Reservoir is a sight to behold. Few people know, however, that the lake's storage capacity of 13.9 billion cubic metres was made possible by submerging the homeland of thousands of local people.

Now, more than 30 years later, 10,000 of these people are yet to be properly resettled. For the immense sacrifices these people have made for the happiness of Hong Kong, they certainly deserve a better living. To protect the environment, however, the government has slowed down local economic development and also turned down several offers of foreign industrial investment here. The local people would have become prosperous easily, were it not for their consideration for the well-being of their Hong Kong compatriots.

MOBILE PHONES — EVEN HERE

I paid a visit to a family who owned three motorboats. The family lived aboard these three boats, that would be chained together at night. The father and two sons were absent, leaving the mother and the daughter behind. The daughter, Ah Xiang, was a lovely girl with an affable manner. Since childhood she had lived on the water with her father, a fisherman before he turned to the shipping business. Like her two brothers, Ah Xiang operated a boat of her own. Apart from taking tourists around the lake, she usually ferried villagers to nearby towns.

Ah Xiang's houseboat had a television set, video recorder, an electric fan and other amenities. During our conversation, I heard the beeping of a cellular phone — her younger brother was calling. Seeing my amazement, Ah Xiang told me that her family had just bought two mobile phones, which she and her younger brother used as a means to swap information about the shipping business.

Soon the two of us got on familiar terms. She took me on the boat to visit two families who had fish farms on the water, and to a family that was still making a living by catching fish.

A FISHERMAN KEEPS TO THE OLD WAY OF LIFE

Only an old man called Fu was at home in the fishermen's family. He had been catching fish for more than 40 years. He could have settled somewhere else but, reluctant to leave home, he has opted to stay. The cabin of his boat, though small, was neat and tidy. I noticed the family cooked with an environmentally friendly gas stove. Ah Xiang was obviously familiar with the old man. Having sat cross-legged in the cabin for a moment, she ran to the bow and raised the fender to let in the cool breeze.

The lake abounds in fish. Their presence is believed to help improve the water quality, and, what is more, they have provided jobs for a lot of people. That is why the government releases millions of fish fry into the lake each year. Fu usually cast his nets at night, gathering them in the morning. "Fishing is no easy job now," complained Fu, "because too many people are in the business."

1. Xinfengjiang Reservoir as viewed from above
2. In the cause of environmental protection
3. "Think Green" is the name of this yacht.
4. The ecological system on the islands is well preserved.
5. This owner of three speedboats has shifted from fishing to transportation business.
6. Smooth sail in the lake
7. Coordinating business from the yacht





THE UNSUNG HEROES


I was captivated by the lush vegetation the moment I set foot in Anyuan, Jiangxi Province. The local people are full of pride, and show a high sense of responsibility, knowing that Anyuan is the cradle of the Dongjiang River, whose water is diverted to Hong Kong. They know that only by protecting the trees and preventing soil erosion can the quality of the water be ensured. Their tragedy is that although living in the mountains, they cannot live off them; living by the river, they have to go out of their way to protect it. They have kept the source of the river in good condition at the cost of their living standards. Statistics show that the place has an immense timber reserve of 6.76 million cubic metres, enough to generate more than 100 million yuan. This does not include the abundant mineral resources that lie buried in the mountains. But, to protect the water, nothing has ever been done to tap these resources. In 1996, the income of the local farmers averaged a meagre 1,700 yuan.

A HUNTER TURNED FRUIT GROWER

I was on my way to the Dongfeng Reservoir when it suddenly began to rain. I ducked into a farmhouse to wait for the rain to stop.

By chattering with Mr. Tang, the host, I learned that he and his family used to live by the river. They had settled at the foot of the mountain only two years earlier to take care of the fruit trees on the mountain. Asked how he had made a living before, Tang told me proudly that he was a hunter. He said he hunted wild boars to protect his crops and made some money by the way. He used to be so famous that other villages often invited him to help them kill wild boars. Besides, he grew brown mushrooms in the mountains, which earned him at least 5,000 yuan each year. However, now, for the sake of ecological balance, he had to give up mushroom-breeding because it consumed tree trunks, and hunting was no longer allowed in this area. I learned that the same had happened to his fellow villagers, but none of them had ever complained. The local government had helped by granting them with loans to plant fruit trees, and many of them had also embarked on other ways of life.

AT THE RIVER'S SOURCE

I finally reached Sanbai Mountain, the origin of the Dongjiang River. It was a spectacular sight, as soon after the source the river forms a waterfall, which is a colossal column of water descending from a height of 100 metres. It crashes on to a huge monolith below, foaming and dispersing thick clouds of vapour up into the air. The depression above the waterfall was being converted into a man-made lake to catch water runoffs from all directions. I wanted to go further up the mountain towards the river's source, but the vegetation was too dense and prickly, so I had to give up. 

Translated by Ling Yuan

1. Exuberant vegetation in the upper reach of Dongjiang River (by Shi Baoxiu)
2. A farming household at the foot of Mt. Sanbai
3. Tracing the source of Dongjiang River
4. Dongfeng Reservoir near the origin of the river
5. Where it all begins





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Runaway Deer Thriving

Six artificially bred deer, which escaped in the 1970s, have multiplied to more than 150, according to local reports. The herd was recently found living in the wild in the Weide Mountains in Shandong Province. An official from the local environmental protection agency said that the herd originated from the six deer artificially bred at Dashankou Forestry Farm, next to the Weide Mountains, in the 1970s. Since then there had been sporadic sightings of deer in the forest.

The mountain area has been turned to a nature reserve in order to protect the animals. A team of experts has been organised to investigate the herd.

Sightseeing Submarine

Hainan Island has just launched China's first submarine to be used for sightseeing. Having successfully completed a test run earlier this year, it now is going ahead with 50-minute underwater tours from Sanya, a city on the island's south coast. The vessel, which has 43 seats, goes to a maximum depth of 50 metres, with special carbon filters to keep the air clean inside.

New Railway Access for Remote City

Bose, a historic city known for its natural beauty and rich folklore, is expected to become more accessible with the completion of a major railway line. Located on the shores of Chengpi Lake in Southwest China's Guangxi Province, it is home to various ethnic minority groups.

The new railway, running between Kunming and Nanning, the capitals respectively of Yunnan and Guangxi, is now in trial operation.

Grotto Moved

A 1,400-year-old grotto has been rescued from its site on the Yellow River to save it from being submerged by a new reservoir that is currently under construction. It has been moved to a spot 50 kilometres away, where it will form part of a museum. The grotto was located ten metres above the river among steep cliffs, and is estimated to have been carved between 525 and 531. More than 200 Buddha carvings and four relief sculptures of pagodas were found in its caves.

Silk Festival

Suzhou is to hold its sixth silk festival this autumn. Set to run from 20-25 September, it will feature a trade fair, exhibitions and sales promotions. Suzhou, 80 kilometres west of Shanghai, has more than 7,000 overseas-backed firms with US\$10 billion invested there.

Silk Maps

Shanghai has issued a series of silk maps of the world. The manufacturer, Shanghai No. 7 Silk Printing Co. Ltd., says that 5,000 have been made for 1997 and are now on sale.

Shanghai's River to Be Cleaned Up

Suzhou River, which runs through the centre of Shanghai, is to be cleaned up, according to a city government official. Since the 1950s large amounts of industrial effluence have been discharged into its waters, turning the river black and giving it a foul smell. After October 1, however, no solids or fluids are to be found floating in the river, and it is thought that some 29 riverside quays will be removed this year.

HK Port Traffic Increases

Hong Kong's ocean-going port traffic grew by five per cent in the first three months of this year, according to the local English language newspaper, the *South China Morning Post*. Statistics show that vessels with a total capacity of 46.8 million tons entered the port between January and March, while those with a total capacity of 47 million tons left the port during the same period.

Study Finds Wildlife Thriving

There is now more wildlife in the jungles of Yunnan than 10 years ago, thanks to local conservation efforts. A recent field study found about 600 wild oxen and 250 Asian elephants in parts of the area, compared to 1984 figures of 170 and 100. Other species under protection include the Indian tiger, green pea fowl and the gibbon. Local wildlife protection officials are working on legislation to ban hunting in the region.

Reserve for Giant Pandas

Construction of a 31,000-hectare nature reserve will begin this year in Sichuan Province. Because of the deteriorating environment and degeneration in the giant panda's reproductive capacity, the world has only about 1,000 giant pandas left in the wild, with more than 80 per cent of them in mountain forests around Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province.

China already has 25 nature reserves to protect the giant pandas. The country's concern over the giant pandas has drawn the widespread support of the wildlife protection organisations and experts worldwide. It is expected that many will attend the festival in Chengdu on 24-28 September, aimed to promote international cooperation in conserving giant panda and its habitat.

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Autumn Skies Discount

As part of its Fifth Anniversary celebration, Beijing New Century Hotel is offering a **30% discount** on the rack rate for all rooms, right through the peak season.

So any time between 1 September and 15 November you can stay in one of our comfortable Standard Rooms for only RMB 1,050 (\$124). Or one of our spacious Business Suites for a mere RMB1,540 (\$181).

But while our rates are way down, you still enjoy free use of our gymnasium, sauna and indoor pool, free local phone calls, and free use of our downtown shuttle bus (three times daily). And you will also receive a coupon entitling you (or a friend) to a

40% discount the next time you stay with us.

So come and enjoy the high autumn skies of Beijing. Without the high autumn rates. At Beijing New Century Hotel.

*Rates are subject to 15% service charge and RMB 12 per night city tax.

北京新世纪饭店
BEIJING NEW CENTURY HOTEL

No. 6 Southern Road Capital Gym, Beijing, China. Post Code: 100044
Tel: 86(10)6849-2001 Fax: 86(10)6849-1107 Cable: 222375 NCHCN

ANA HOTELS
INTERNATIONAL

Zhejiang Metals & Minerals Import & Export Corporation

Our company deals in the export of 300 kinds, 8 series of "CK" brand garden tools such as Flower Stands, Saws, Shears, Forks, Rakes, Garden Furniture and Candle Sticks. Our products are of stable quality and fine technology and enjoy a good reputation among foreign customers. Inquiries are appreciated at any time.

"CK" Brand Garden Tools



浙江省五金矿产进出口公司

ZHEJIANG METALS & MINERALS I/E CORPORATION

Add: 102 Feng Qi Road, Hangzhou, China.

Telex: 351092 MIMET CN Cable: MINMETALS HANGZHOU Tel: 86-571-5170072 Fax: 86-571-5178635

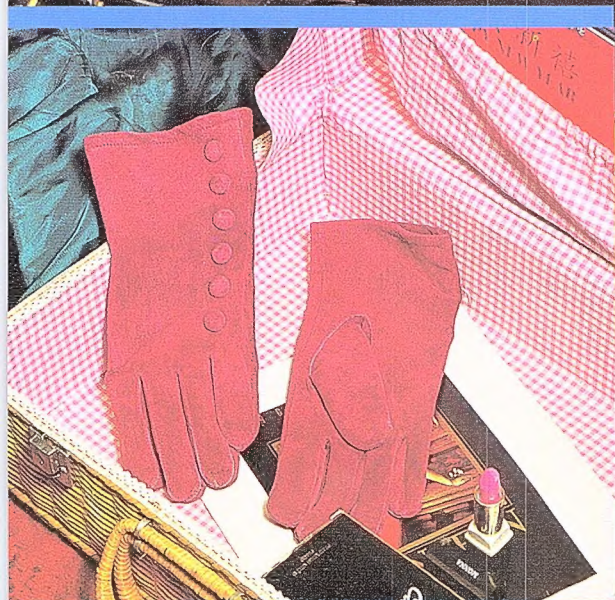


ZHEJIANG ARTS & CRAFTS IMP & EXP CORPORATION



浙江省工藝品進出口公司所屬的日用工藝品分公司，專業從事帽子、手套、圍巾等商品的出口，皮手套、滑雪手套、針織手套、各種面料的繡花運動帽、冬帽等商品已遍佈世界各地。下屬一批專業的生產企業，擁有先進電腦打卡機、製版機、繡花機、高頭車等專業生產設備和專業技術人員，能確保商品的優質和交貨。歡迎您接洽、訂購，我們將盡心盡力為您服務。

The Daily-use Handicrafts Branch of Zhejiang Arts & Crafts Imp. & Exp. Corp. is a specialised trading company, which exports all kinds of gloves and mittens, caps and hats, scarves and the like. Its leather gloves, skiing mittens, knitting gloves & mittens, embroidered sports caps made of different material, and winter hats and caps are sold all over the world. Its subordinate enterprises possess advanced computer-controlled punchers, plate-making machines, embroidering machines and high-head sewing machines operated and managed by skilful workers and technicians. You're welcome to contact the company and we'll provide you with the best service.



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Window Of The World Beer Festival '97

To be held as from 26th September to 12th October, 1997 inclusive

Friendship weighs much in tasty Beer.

Please be informed that visitors from Hong Kong and of mainland Chinese residents will enjoy the same ticket charge subject to the fact of Hongkong's reunification with China. The price has already been changed as follows:-

For Weekdays

Adults: RMB¥100 (Formerly HK\$160)

For Week-ends, Sundays & Public Holidays

Adults: RMB¥110 (Formerly HK\$180)

Children: Half fare



WORLD

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Add: Overseas Chinese Town Shenzhen, China.

Tel: 6608000 Fax: 6602590



CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE (HONG KONG) LIMITED

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